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30p EVERY WEEKDAY

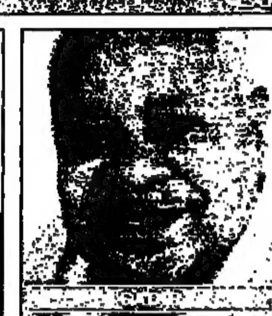
15 pages of Sport including top coverage of England's cricketers Down Under

Shaming of Olympic ideal

EXPELLED











RESIGNED







Salt Lake City and Sydney keep Games

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE ruling body of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday recommended that six IOC members be expelled in the biggest scandal in the 104-year history of the Games.

Three other members have already resigned and three more remain under investigation in the £500,000 "votes-for-favours" scandal over Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President who is due to retire in 2001, also said yesterday that he would seek a vote of confidence from the remaining members when they hold an extraordinary session in Lausanne on March 17 and 18. His heir apparent is now under investigation.

The crisis has left an indelible stain on the 21-year reign of Señor Samaranch as head of the movement. The expulsions and resignations will not satisfy his critics, who believe he must take more of the blame for the crisis.

Leading international sponsors, such as Coca-Cola and *Time* Magazine, who put hundreds of millions of pounds into the Games, are threatening to halt financial support unless there is a complete break with the past.

The remaining members of the 112-strong Committee, including the Princess Royal, are expected to back the Executive Board recommendation to expel the six, all of whom are either African or South American. A two-thirds majority is needed to carry out what would be the first expulsions in the history of the Olympics.

Señor Samaranch said: "We encourage them to tender their resignation. They don't have to wait to be expelled. It is better to put an end to this most dire chapter in the history of the Olympics. These members have done great harm to the Olympic family and now their greatest service to the Olympic movement is simply to accept their fate."

Señor Samaranch pledged yesterday that both the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City would continue at their chosen venues. There were further revelations over the week-end that Sydney agreed in 1993 to give cash to the national Olympic committees of Kenya and Uganda to ensure their support for 2000. Sydney won by only two votes from Beijing.

The most famous member facing expulsion is Jean-Claude Ganga, from the Congo, arguably the most important man in African sport and the man who led the move to ban Rhodesia from the 1972 Olympics and also the Black African boycott of the 1976 Games in Montreal. Mr Ganga, an IOC member since 1986, was accused of making more than £30,000 from a land deal set up by Salt Lake City. The remaining five members to face expulsion are: Carlos Arroyo of Ecuador; Zein El Abdin Abdel Gadir of Sudan; Lamine Keita of Mali; Charles Nderitu Mukora of Kenya and Sergio Santander Fantini of Chile.

The three who have resigned are: Pirjo Haeggman of Finland and Bashir Muhammad Attarabulsi of Libya, both of whom made their decisions last week, and David Sibandze of Swaziland, who acted yesterday.

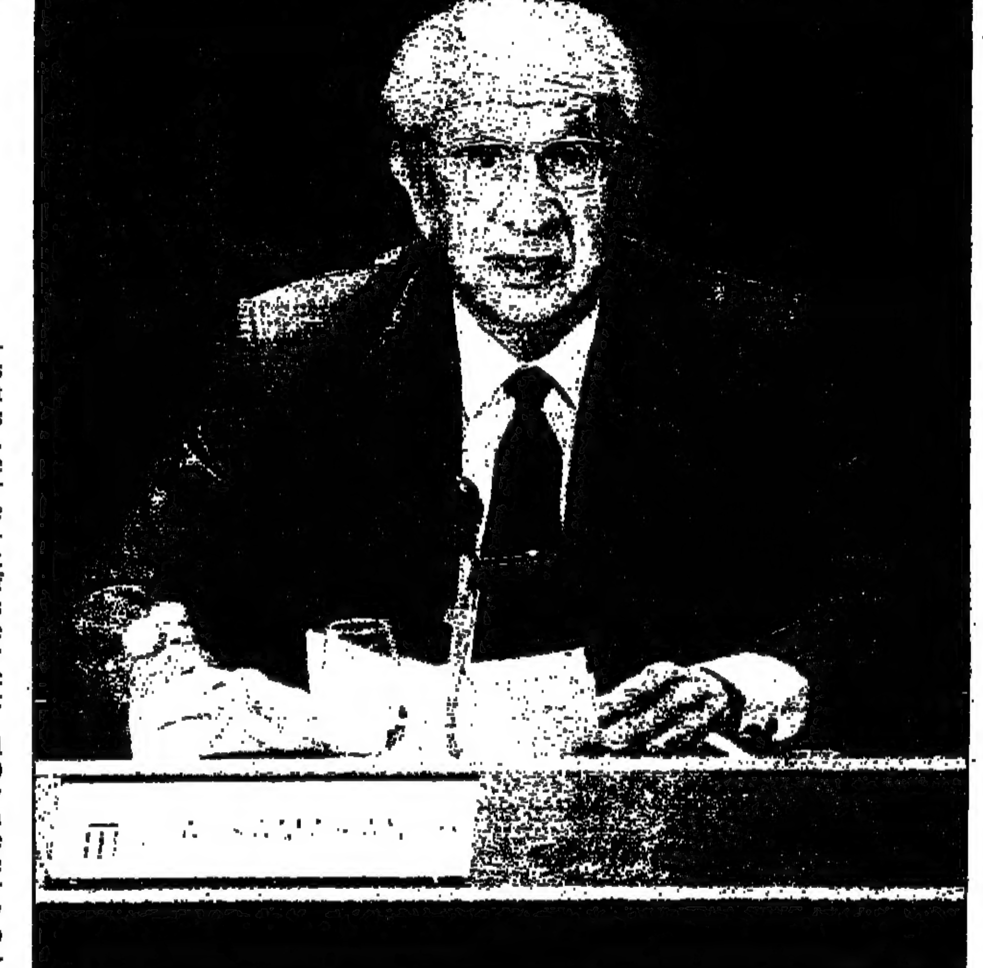
Anton Geesink of The Netherlands, the 1964 Olympic judo champion, was also given a severe reprimand after an academy which bears his name received £3,500.

However, the spiralling crisis also includes further inquiries into the activities of three other powerful members. They are Kim Un Yong of South Korea, a possible successor to Señor Samaranch, Vitali Smirnov of Russia and Louis Guirandou N'Diaye of Ivory Coast. However, IOC sources said last night that they were expected to be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Yesterday's decision by the all-powerful Executive Board, which met in Lausanne, followed a five-week investigation. Members were accused of accepting inducements of up to a total of £500,000 in cash and benefits from Salt Lake City. There were also reports of gifts and free medical care.

Gold rush, page 4

Time to go, page 35



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President, at the press confernec in Lausanne

Passive corruption of a pretend president

BY SIMON BARNES

THE last Olympic press conference shown on television in this country concerned the Canadian gold medal-winning snowboarder Ross Rebagliati, who had tested positive for marijuana. He told the world it was an accident; he was the victim of passive smoking.

Yesterday, the President of the Internatinal Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, held a press conference to tell the world that he was guilty of passive corruption. He apologised on behalf of everybody else, making it quite plain that he himself was more to be pitied than blamed. The two performances were equally convincing.

Señor Samaranch said that six members of the IOC were recommended for expulsion for receiving gifts from cities wishing to stage the Olympic Games. An Ethics Commission will be formed. Señor Samaranch is a politician through and through; when in trouble blame everybody else and form a committee.

Señor Samaranch, now 78, said that he had not even considered resigning. He will stay on until 2001. He delivered the words like a mild-mannered dalek: as ever the only living man who actually looks like his own passport photograph. He always manages to come across as the kind of President who gives megalomania a good name.

The fact is, of course, that this monstrously self-aggrandising leader of men is not a real president at all. He is called Mr President wherever he goes, is treated with great deference and is given the best of everything as of right.

But he is a pretend president: president not of a country but of a body that puts on something that just happens to be the finest sport in the history of the world. There is certainly money, power and prestige involved: but only in the distribution of sporting and commercial favours.

But Señor Samaranch has always wanted the Nobel Peace Prize. He is always to be found with phrases like "Olympic ideal" on his lips. Love, peace, brotherhood and international goodwill just happen to be the most wonderfully marketable notions: especially if you happen to be an international company. But of course it is all phoney.

The Games are not about brotherhood and sisterhood. They are about competition, which happens to make riveting television. Hence the money, hence the power. The sport is dressed up in cosy, phoney virtue.

A couple of decades ago it seemed the Olympics would be brought low by lack of staging the Games had become prohibitively expensive. It was Señor Samaranch's achievement to change all that: the Olympics are now the most colossal revenue earner. Thus the Games have been brought low by excess of money.

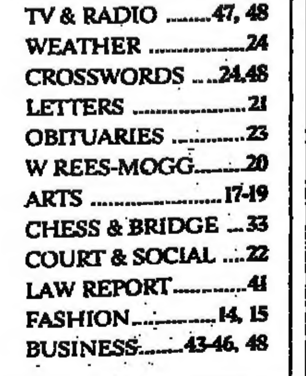
The voting procedure was always carte blanche for casual corruption: corruption has been a standard item of gossip for a decade and more. But too often, the IOC and Señor Samaranch had preferred the appearance of virtue to virtue itself. Thus an infected, untreated toe has become a case of galloping gangrene.

We have heard of attempts to corrupt IOC members by cities that didn't even win, just as totally unexceptional athletes have been caught with drugs in their system. In the modern Games, it seems that you need bribes and drugs not for winning but for the simple joys of taking part.

It all comes down to the traditional Olympic confusion of sport and virtue. "Goodness, what beautiful pearls," someone said to Mae West. "Goodness has nothing to do with it." Goodness, what beautiful sport.

Blacks and crime

The Home Office has shelved a secret study showing that blacks are far more likely to be criminals than are Asians and whites .... Page 2



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Lewinsky back in Washington

Monica Lewinsky in Washington after she returned from Los Angeles under a court order to be interviewed by Republicans about President Clinton's impeachment trial.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson said she must co-operate or "forfeit her protections" under an immunity deal .... Page 13

US bombs Iraqi missile sites

American fighters bombed two Iraqi surface-to-air missile systems in northern Iraq.

The Americans said an F-15E "Strike Eagle" plane had probably scored a direct hit on the site, which "posed a threat to coalition forces in the region". American aircraft also fired anti-radar missiles at another Iraqi missile site near Mosul.

Blairs condemn press report on daughter

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and his wife last night objected to the Press Complaints Commission over a newspaper story about Kathryn, their ten-year-old daughter.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony and Cherie Blair had complained to Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission.

The story in the *Mail On Sunday* referred to the school to which the Blairs are sending their daughter in September and said several parents were accusing the school of giving her a place at the expense of local children.

Mr Blair announced two weeks ago that he was sending his daughter to the Sacred Heart, a Roman Catholic comprehensive in Hammersmith.

But in what is believed to be the first complaint to the commission by a Prime Minister, Mr Blair said the newspaper had breached the code of conduct about press intrusion into children's lives. The spokesman added that the Blairs would be asking the commission about general guidance for the protection of children of public figures.

Government sources said Mr Blair was particularly angry as it appeared that *Mail on Sunday* reporters had been deliberately intrusive and tried to whip up comments by parents. They said that two thirds of children at the school came from outside the catchment area.

The strongly-worded statement, delivered to Lord Wakeham yesterday, said that under the commission's guidelines, children should be able to attend school without press intrusion and that the private lives of children should not be covered simply because they had famous parents.

"The facts are these. The Blairs want their daughter to attend a Catholic comprehensive girls' school, of which there are none in Westminster. The school their daughter is due to attend was their first choice," the statement said. "It's reasonably close to the school attended by their sons which means the children will be able to travel together.

"As the school head and the Local Education Authority have made clear, all the normal procedures were followed in line with the school's admissions policy, and the Prime Minister's daughter received no special treatment."

The statement acknowledged that in any over-subscribed school there would be disappointed children and parents, "but to say that amounts to special treatment for one pupil who is being offered a place is wrong, unfair and without any foundation whatever."

It said that the Blairs tolerated a good deal of media attack and intrusion without complaint. "But they see no reason why their children should not be allowed the freedom from intrusion the PCC claims its members support."

The Blairs came under attack four years ago when they announced they were sending their son, Euan, to the grant-maintained Brompton Oratory in Fulham. His brother, Nicky, followed him later.

The *Mail on Sunday* reported parents as saying that the Blairs should have sent Kathryn closer to home. The Notre Dame High School in Southwark, a Roman Catholic comprehensive, is about two miles from Downing Street, but travel could be difficult given that the boys go to Fulham in west London. Two other Catholic state girls' schools are equidistant to Hammersmith from Downing Street.

Mowlam wants end to beatings

BY MARTIN FLETCHER CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

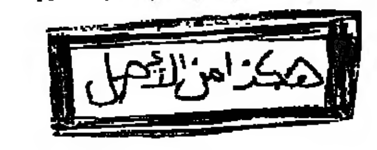
MO MOWLAM will today meet the political representatives of Northern Ireland's three main paramilitary groups at Stormont to demand an end to all "punishment beatings" and kneecappings.

Sources said the Northern Ireland Secretary would tell Sinn Fein and the loyalist Progressive Unionist and Ulster Democratic parties of her "abhorrence at 'punishment attacks' and their obligation to do all they can to halt them".

The meeting comes as the Government faces pressure from Labour backbenchers as well as the Conservatives to suspend the release of terrorist prisoners because the attacks violate the Good Friday peace accord. The Northern Ireland Office denied reports yesterday that Dr Mowlam was considering a move of that sort.

"These are mutilations, there are people with their legs being blown off," William Hague, the Conservative leader, said on television. He believed to release prisoners early is a mistake.

Ulster beatings, page 6



Straw shelves study on black criminality

Conclusions of report on racial factors are being kept under lock and key, reports **Stewart Tendler**

THE Home Office has shelved a highly sensitive study showing that black people are far more likely than Asian or whites to become involved in crime.

The confidential study was carried out by a senior Home Office researcher for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and its circulation has been tightly restricted.

Senior police believe the study has been "put on the back-burner" because of the impending report into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, which is expected to criticise police racism. They are frustrated that Mr Straw is shying away from a public debate on the scale of black criminality and the reasons for it.

One police source said that the Home Office study was "a fairly sensitive piece of work. It is about where we are going, and there are some unhappy conclusions. It is substantial and quite revealing."

Although the study raises important questions on crimes by members of ethnic minorities, a Home Office source confirmed that no action has been planned as a result.

The author of the study was Dr Marion Fitzgerald, a senior criminologist and sociologist in the Home Office's research and development section, who has written other papers on race and crime statistics. The study analyses material published during the 1990s and questions why a higher proportion of the black population than the Asian population is linked to crime.

The study has drawn on Home Office statistics for 1997-98 on the relationship between ethnic communities and the criminal justice system. Those statistics show that 2 per cent of the population aged ten and above in England and Wales are black, 3 per cent Asian, and another 1 per cent linked to the Far East, Middle East or other parts of the world.

There were nearly two million arrests in 1997-98 of which 7 per cent or 138,000 were of black people, 4 per cent or 80,100 were Asian, and 18,000 or 1 per cent were other people of non-white origin.

Research in ten forces that cover two thirds of the population from ethnic minority backgrounds in England and Wales, showed that in Leicestershire there were 232 arrests for every 1,000 black people aged ten and over, 43 per 1,000 Asians and 34 per 1,000 whites. The highest figure for Asians was in Thames Valley at 108 per thousand and the highest for whites was in Lancashire with 53 per 1,000.

Dr Fitzgerald's report examines the situation in London, analysing the possible influence of the high rates of family break-up in the black community on criminal behaviour, as well as the economic and cultural cost of crime to the communities.

It could influence policy decisions on how to prevent youngsters from ethnic backgrounds becoming offenders.

Dr Fitzgerald is a former academic who joined the Home Office more than a decade ago. She prepared research on crime and race for the royal commission on the criminal justice system under Lord Runciman and has published papers on ethnic monitoring in police forces and victimisation and harassment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Three years ago the sensitivity of the issue of race and crime was highlighted when Scotland Yard launched Operation Eagle Eye against street muggers. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was widely attacked for saying that young black people were suspected of committing the majority of street robberies.

A spokesman for the Home Office said that the study was an internal paper and there was no question of anything being suppressed or delayed because of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB

Rupert and Sheila Sylvester, whose son died in hospital, walking either side of a priest at the head of the march yesterday

Grieving parents demand explanation

By Dominic Kennedy

THE parents of a 30-year-old black man who died after being overpowered by eight policemen marched to a police station yesterday wearing shirts printed with the words "Who killed my son?"

Rupert and Sheila Sylvester, whose son Roger died last Tuesday after eight days in a coma, were joined by 600 marchers, including Neville Lawrence, father of Stephen, whose racist murder was unsolved because of apparent police blunders.

"It's another person who has been killed," said Mr Lawrence. "Even with the focus on the police, they still continue to do the same. It's business as usual as far as I am concerned."

The deeply religious family, originally from Granada, led a dignified march through the racially tense area of Tottenham, north London, the parents holding the hands of their minister the Rev Gerald Bruce, singing "We shall overcome".

At the police station, candles were lit and left burning on the railings as an increasingly agitated crowd shouted: "Murderers" at the police.

Roger Sylvester's mysterious death has ignited the black community in a district which was inflamed by the 1993 death of Joy Gardner, who died after her head was covered in sticky tape while she was being deported.

Police and black community leaders have been struggling to build trust since the 1985 Broadwater Farm riot, when PC Keith Blacklock was murdered.

According to the police, Mr Sylvester was restrained after being found naked, banging on a door in his own street in Tottenham two weeks ago. He was handcuffed and taken to St Ann's Hospital to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act but suffered a respiratory arrest while being assessed by medical staff.

He was taken to North Middlesex Hospital and finally Whittington Hospital where he died in the intensive care unit.

The family, who have been trying to stop the campaign being hijacked by Trotskyists and black-power militants, gathered outside his home in Summerhill Road yesterday afternoon.

Mr Bruce from the Finsbury Park Methodist Church said: "We pray that Roger's death will be a means whereby we can change our society in a peaceful, powerful way."



Roger Sylvester: family led march

Staff get a right to unpaid leave

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

COMPANIES will be forced to allow their staff to take unpaid "emergency" days off under an ambitious package of measures to help families, to be unveiled by the Government this week.

The Fairness at Work Bill will outline a series of proposals to extend maternity leave, introduce statutory parental leave and allow staff an unlimited number of days off. These would have to be for urgent reasons such as sickness in the family, bereavement, trouble at school, help for elderly parents, accidents or domestic crises.

Ministers will be consulting on the best way to stop abuse of the new regulations, although the days off will be unpaid.

Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary will also announce that the Government is cutting from two years to one the amount of time that staff need to be employed before they are entitled to unpaid maternity leave.

At the moment pregnant women are entitled to 18 weeks statutory maternity pay from the day they join a company. They are also entitled to 14 weeks statutory maternity leave from day one and up to 40 weeks unpaid leave if they have been in the company for two years.

But under regulations following the Fairness at Work Bill, all new mothers will qualify for 18 weeks statutory leave from day one, and up to 40 weeks unpaid after one year instead of two.

The Bill will also allow three months unpaid parental leave to be taken by either or both parents in addition to maternity leave. Although details have yet to be finalised, this could be taken until the child is 11 or even up to 16. It could be taken in one chunk or spread over six months as part of jobshare.

Parents who adopt children will be also entitled to take three months leave to allow them to bond with their child.

The main focus of the Bill will be on statutory recognitions for unions. Mr Byers has decided to keep all the changes on the issue that were announced by Peter Mandelson in December shortly before he was forced to resign over the home-loan affair.

Irvine heads off clash with judges over powers

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE Lord Chancellor has defused a potential clash with senior judges over the powers he proposes for himself over the justice system and legal profession.

Lord Irvine of Lairg has told peers that he will accept amendments aimed at curbing the powers set out in his Access to Justice Bill. Both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, are backing the restrictions suggested last week at the Committee stage.

An amendment tabled by Lord Lloyd of Berwick, a retired law lord, and backed by several peers as well as the Bar, sets out principles that would govern the exercise of powers by the Lord Chancellor. These include: that people should not be denied access to justice or the machinery of justice on account of their means; that legal services ensure that disputes are settled expeditiously; and that a strong, independent and self-regulating legal profession be preserved.

Two weeks ago, Lord Irvine's proposals came under attack from a select committee under Lord Alexander of Weedon which said the powers proposed for the Lord Chancellor were "almost untrammelled" and of "considerable concern".

Under the Bill, the Lord Chancellor will direct the Legal Services Commission which replaces the Legal Aid Board. The commission will run the proposed Community Legal Service and Criminal Defence Service in the allocation of £1.6 billion of public funds spent on legal services.

The Bill also enables the Lord Chancellor to take increased powers over the rules of the legal profession, including the determination of rights of audience.


Irvine: will accept peers' amendments to Bill

But in concessions made during debate last week on the Bill, Lord Irvine has accepted that there should be a statutory statement of purpose governing the Bill. He also accepted that provisions on how the money will be allocated should be laid before Parliament in draft and subject to affirmative procedure. On the issue of the independence of the legal profession — on which Lord Irvine was facing widespread opposition, he said: "I believe profoundly that a strong, independent and self-regulating legal profession should be preserved."

He said he would look at how he can strengthen the wording of the Bill to enshrine the importance of advocates being independent; and, in response to concerns expressed by Lord Ackner, a retired law lord, at how to ensure that only advocates with specific skills and knowledge, and subject to a code of discipline, are allowed to take cases in courts.

MP agrees age of consent deal

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

THE Labour MP who led opposition last year to reducing the age of consent for homosexuals to 16 yesterday called on Labour MPs to back the new Bill making the change.

Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, said he would support the second reading today of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill after the Government's decision to bring in safeguards to protect vulnerable teenagers from being exploited by people such as teachers and careworkers in positions of trust.

He said last night: "The position taken by me and other Labour MPs was never anti-gay. It was the fear that lowering the age of consent to 16 would mean that more young people would fall prey to people who abuse their positions of trust. Now I am happy to ask all Labour MPs to vote for the Bill and I hope that the Lords will back it as well."

The safeguards had been sought by Mr Ashton and other Labour MPs when the attempt to bring in a lower age of consent fell at the last hurdle after defeat in the Lords of an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill. Mr Ashton's stand in the Commons — he secured the backing of about 30 Labour MPs — was seen by peers as justification for opposing the will of the Commons.

Fears of losing the whole Bill persuaded Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, not to press the issue. Instead, he promised to bring back a government measure in this parliamentary session after a study of the concerns raised by Mr Ashton.

The Bill introduces a new offence of abuse of trust that will apply equally to young men and women. It would protect 16 and 17 year olds from sexual pressures from those in positions of authority and trust by making such advances a criminal offence. It would apply to adults such as teachers, carers, prison staff and hospital workers.

The offence will criminalise only the older partner but it effectively outlaws teacher-pupil love affairs. Gay rights groups such as Stonewall have been mollified by the Government's agreement that the anti-abuse law should apply equally to both sexes.

Man, 45, faces ten charges over two girls

By A Correspondent

A MAN aged 45 will appear in court today facing ten charges over the disappearance of two girls. Alan Edward Hopkinson is accused of kidnapping, abduction, false imprisonment and other alleged offences relating to serious assaults.

Mr Hopkinson, from Langney, Eastbourne, East Sussex, has been in custody at Hastings police station since his arrest on Friday and is due to appear at the town's magistrates' court this morning.

The court is expected to be packed with reporters and police said yesterday that they were preparing for the possibility that a large crowd could gather outside the courthouse. Mr Hopkinson will be taken from the police station to the courthouse via an underground passage connecting the buildings.

He was charged on Saturday night after a huge police operation to find the girls, both aged 10, who went missing while on their way to school last Tuesday morning. They were reunited with their families on Friday evening after being found safe.

Earlier today churchgoers in East Sussex said prayers of thanks for the safe return of the girls. The congregation at one church prayed that the youngsters and their families would recover from the ordeal which shocked the local community.

The church minister said everyone was delighted that the girls had been reunited with their families. "Our prayers have been answered the whole congregation has been so very worried all week and today we thank God for their safe return. Our thoughts are with the girls and their families at this time."

Teachers' pay rise threatens class size pledge

Employers fear a budget-busting 4 per cent award, reports **John O'Leary**

THE pledge by Tony Blair to cut class sizes would be derailed by an above inflation pay deal for teachers next week, local authority leaders have warned the Government.

Ministers are believed to have been considering a 4 per cent pay award for teachers in England. Although he has refused to give any guarantees, David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, is anxious to pay the award in full rather than in stages, as the past three have been.

But Graham Lane, the education chairman of the Local Government Association, said schools could only afford a three per cent increase from this year's budget. A bigger rise would mean larger classes unless the Government funded the award.

Mr Lane said: "Every one per cent increase costs £120 million and we simply have not got the money to pay it. No one wants to deny teachers a decent rise, but it has to be one we can afford."

Although the Government's spending assessment for education was 5.5 per cent up on the previous year, many authorities were already spending above the recommended level. With other services' funding being squeezed, schools' budgets are unlikely to be topped up locally as they have been in recent years.

Mr Lane said councils had put more money aside for teachers' pay than Treasury guidance implied. Rather than allowing for a 2.5 per cent cost of living rise, they had budgeted for three per cent.

"With the school population rising again, we will have no choice but to increase class sizes and cut back other initiatives, if the pay award is too high. This is not some Mexican bargaining trick: I am trying to save the Government from the same mistake the Tories made when they refused to fund teachers' pay."

The authorities' stance presents ministers with a dilemma when they finalise public sector awards this week. Low recruitment to the profession is causing serious concern and teachers' unions are determined to recoup ground lost over the past three years.

Although the recent Green Paper on the teaching profession holds out the promise of substantial increases for many members of the profession, the awards will not be seen for at least another year. With Scottish teachers discussing a possible 18 per cent rise over three years, the English unions are reluctant to wait.

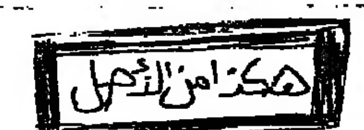
A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers said: "Unless the Government does something about salaries immediately, recruitment problems are going to get worse. Teachers are fed up with being treated as they have been over the last three years, with low increases and phasing.

"They have to treat teaching shortages as seriously as they do nurses."

The NUT is already concerned at the funding allocated for the Green Paper reforms. A union report to be published today will question whether the £1 billion committed for the pay initiative is sufficient to allow a majority of the profession to benefit, as Mr Blunkett has promised.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said it was essential that teachers should not fall further behind other professions if the reforms were to succeed.

"If this year's settlement is too low, it will wreck the Green Paper exercise," he said.



McCartney swears by Linda's last song

Claudia Joseph and Adrian Lee on a spat with broadcasters over *that* word

SIR PAUL McCARTNEY has launched a crusade against radio and television stations that have banned the final song by his late wife, Linda, because it contains a swear word. The single, *The Light Comes From Within*, is taken from his wife's posthumous solo album, *Wide Prairie*.

Sir Paul has taken out an advertisement on page 17 of *The Times* today complaining about the censorship and asking the nation's parents to decide whether their children will be "morally corrupted" by the lyric:

"You say I'm simple, you say I'm a hick.

"You're f***ing no-one, you stupid dick."

Sir Paul said last night that the swear word was used frequently on television and radio and that it was misguided to try to shield children from its use. "Is this the 90s or the 20s?"

The record mocks Lady McCartney's critics, who ridiculed her during her lifetime for her vegetarianism and animal rights campaigns. Her husband feels strongly that, because it is her final musical testament, it should not be sanitised. In the advertisement, Sir Paul says: "Should you decide that your children must not hear this record, we would be grateful for your wisdom and good sense and will put our fingers in our ears whenever we hear it played.

"If, on the other hand, you feel that no harm will come to your children by being exposed to this song, give the guidance so sorely needed and tell them it's OK to do so."

The song, which goes on sale today, is released by EMI with a parental guidance sticker warning of "explicit lyrics".



Part of the advertisement taken out by Sir Paul today

Sir Paul claims it has been banned by BBC Radio, although the B-side, *Seaside Woman*, has been playlisted by Radio 2. An animated video of the song, made by Oscar Grillo, also faces a blackout on *Top of the Pops* and *The Pepsi Music Show*, as well as *Live & Kicking*, *The Big Breakfast* and GMTV.

Sir Paul, citing broadcasters such as Zoe Ball, who has sworn on her Radio One breakfast show, and Bob Geldof, who swore during his Live Aid appeal, told *The Times*: "I find it all very funny. I don't think it's annoying. I think it's hilarious. After all, people do use the word on the telly and on the radio too. It does seem bizarre that TV's own people can swear on a show but you can't swear in a song. I don't understand the difference."

Sir Paul has been paid £1 million for the collection of songs written by Lady McCartney. He is expected to donate the money to animal rights' charities.

A spokesman for the former Beatle said: "This apparently seditious little word has been used in popular culture since the 16th century. Writers from James Joyce and D.H. Lawrence to Nick Hornby have employed it, and miraculously that has not resulted in Armageddon."

John Peel, the BBC presenter, said yesterday: "There is a tendency for people to claim their records have been banned when in fact they are not being played because they are crap.

"I have not heard this record yet but the lyrics do not sound terribly profound. Of course one feels tremendous sympathy for Sir Paul but he must have known that it was unlikely to get daytime play." Mr Peel said he was not aware of any memo being circulated at the BBC relating to the McCartney record.

Lady McCartney composed the album over three decades, recording the final tracks in the weeks before her death, and intended to release the album before Christmas. When she died, her husband took over the project.

On *The Light From Within*, Lady McCartney sings lead vocals and is backed by her husband on bass and her son, James, on lead guitar. A spokeswoman for the BBC denied yesterday that there was a blanket ban on the song.

She said: "Bearing in mind audience sensitivity, we might edit as appropriate. If it gets in the Top 40, a radio edit will be played on the chart show." She said the spontaneous use of the swear word by presenters was frowned upon and, afterwards, they were normally asked to apologise.

A spokesman for Capital Radio in London said the song was not on its playlist. It might be considered later but the swear word would create a problem. "Generally we try to avoid them."

MUSIC TO THE EARS OF POP-LOVERS

[illegible] is credited with having written some of pop's finest lyrics, which have influenced many contemporary bands. Some of his [illegible] lines include:

Lady Madonna

Lady Madonna, children at your feet/Wonder how you manage to make ends meet/Who finds the money when you pay the rent?/Did you think that money was heaven-sent?

Penny Lane

In Penny Lane there is a barber showing photographs/Of every head he's had the pleasure to know/And all the people that come and go/Stop and say hello./On the corner is a banker with a motorcar, the little children laugh at him behind his back/And the banker never wears a mac/In the pouring rain — very strange.

Eleanor Rigby

Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in a church where a wedding has been/Lives in a dream/Waits at the window, wearing a face that she keeps in a jar by the door/Who is it for?/All the lonely people, where do they all come from? All the lonely people, where do they all belong?



The single's cover, with EMI's warning about the lyrics

BBC plans £100m concert showcase to surpass Live Aid

Five-day gig spectacular will be the biggest ever held in the UK, reports Carol Midgley

THE BBC is organising a £100 million music extravaganza that will surpass Live Aid as the biggest concert event ever staged in Britain. It will be a showcase for British musical talent and will mark the end of the millennium.

Music Live 2000, which is being backed by the Government, will feature the cream of British talent in fields ranging from opera and jazz to pop in a five-day festival in May. Chart-topping pop artists including Oasis, Pulp, Massive Attack, George Michael, Elton John, Catatonia, the Manic Street Preachers, the Spice Girls and the Lightning Seeds are being approached to perform at dozens of venues across the country.

Mick Hucknall, the Simply Red singer who sits on the Government's music task force, has also been approached to be an adviser and a performer. The soprano Lesley Garrett, the Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and the violinist Nigel Kennedy are also expected to take part.

The BBC, which will announce the festival today, said that it wanted the event to produce the same pride and euphoria that Live Aid did in 1986. It is also in line with the Government's policy of making more of British music, which achieved domestic sales of £1.08 billion in 1997.

Bill Morris, the festival's director, said: "We want it to be the kind of event where everyone will look back and remember exactly where they were for it."

During the festival, the biggest outdoor event ever attempted by the BBC, the various concerts will be broadcast on BBC1, BBC2, the digital channel BBC Choice and by all the corporation's national radio stations.

The festival will culminate with a 24-hour "Perfect Day" which will be a continuous broadcast of live music at major venues as well as smaller street festivals featuring lesser-known artists. One plan is to have the BBC Symphony Orchestra play at a stadium before an important football match. There will also be a concert celebrating country and western music.

The concert's promoter, Harvey Goldsmith, who helped with Live Aid, said: "Culturally and financially the UK's music scene is a world leader.

"We have so much to be proud of, so what better way to mark millennium year than with the world's greatest live music party?"

It is expected that cities including Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff and Manchester will hold the biggest events, while smaller concerts will be staged in provincial towns and villages. However, Wembley Stadium and the Royal Opera House will be closed for renovations.

The events will be funded by the licence fee, but the BBC said that it would be seen as a huge investment in British music. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said: "Music Live promises to be a real high point in the millennium year. The country has such a wealth of talent as performers and composers."

JOHN COGILL



Ronan Keating: Irish lead singer with Boyzone, in his new, more statesmanlike guise. He may follow Dana's example

Pop star wants to be President



Keating: teen heart-throb

RONAN KEATING, the lead singer of Boyzone, is considering pursuing a new career as President of Ireland (Audrey Magee writes).

The teenage pop heart-throb said: "It would be incredible. For me, it would be a rags-to-riches story about a fellow who grew up in working-class Bayside, was terrible at school but ended up being President of Ireland. It would be the pinnacle of my career."

Keating has been inspired by the success of Dana, the Eurovision Contest winner who came third in the last presidential contest. The boy-band singer feels he could do better and win a seven-year term. He may run next time, in 2004, or wait until the following election. "I think I would do well because I can relate to people. I can very happily sit in the pub having a pint with Paddy or go abroad for the country without making a show of myself."

Keating, now more likely to be seen in suit and tie than jeans and baseball cap, desperately wants to be taken seriously. Aged only 21, he is a millionaire, married, and his wife is expecting their first child.

He insists that he is a serious person with a good voice, business acumen and a deep concern for people. He was recently appointed by Dublin to the committee organising Ireland's millennium celebrations. Having tasted politics, is now keen to go further.

Ernie Wise has heart surgery

By Alex O'Connell

ERNIE WISE was last night in a critical but stable condition after undergoing a triple heart bypass operation in a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

He was semi-conscious and able to open his eyes and squeeze the hand of his wife, Doreen, as she waited by his bedside. Doctors at the Northridge Medical Centre, where he has been since early December, gave him a 50-50 chance of survival, Mrs Wise said.

The 73-year-old entertainer has been in hospital since he fell ill at his winter holiday home in Boca Raton, on Florida's east coast, only days after celebrating his birthday on November 27.

He suffered two heart attacks within a week and spent almost three weeks in intensive care. The couple celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary last Monday. Although he had been fed through tubes for two weeks, Wise ate a slice of cake and was thought to be recovering well.

His health has been a concern for some time, and he has suffered a series of strokes. Wise's 40-year partnership with Eric Morecambe ended with Morecambe's death from heart failure in 1984.

Cities will do anything for Olympic gold

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE first modern Olympic Games are always considered to have been held in Athens in 1896. In fact they were staged in Los Angeles in 1984.

After those Games, the first to make a profit, the wooing of members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) escalated to unsavoury heights. Presents, lavish meals, first-class flights, luxury hotels, offers of prostitutes, and eventually bribes were used to secure their votes.

Staging the world's premier sports event has become the supreme prize for any city, worth billions of pounds.

The desire to stage the Games has not always been exactly intense. After Baron de Coubertin revived the Ancient Games in Athens in 1896, they almost died for lack of interest in Paris in 1900 and St Louis in 1904. There were few entries and little public attention.

However, by the 1924 Games, later celebrated in *Chariots of Fire*, the votes of IOC members were being actively sought. Monique Berlioux, the former executive director of the IOC, wrote in 1976 that even in the 1920s, members were being offered first-class travel for themselves and their wives.

Until the 1970s the process remained unsophisticated — the IOC had no money and few staff, and its members had to pay their own fares and hotel bills. When Lord Killanin was asked to succeed Avery Brundage as IOC president after 1972, he replied that he could not afford it unless the rules were changed.

As payment of committee members was introduced, the Games began to generate ever-increasing amounts of money. The possibility of corruption had arrived.

Staging the Olympics had always been a matter of prestige and Major Jean Drapeau of Montreal, which staged the 1976 Summer Olympics, reputedly recorded the taste in wine and sexual proclivities of IOC members.

The Olympic movement was transformed in the 1980s by the interest of the American television networks, which began competing for the rights for both winter and summer Games. The rights for the 1980 winter Olympics in Lake Placid cost £10 million. For 2002 in Salt Lake City they will cost £300 million.

When Los Angeles made a profit of £140 million the floodgates opened. Only two cities vied for the 1984 summer Games. Two years later, 12 cities wanted to hold the 1992 winter Games. For the summer Games there was a shortlist of six, and Brisbane held a lunch for IOC members that cost almost £1 million.

In 1986 the IOC limited gifts to members to a maximum of £100, so the lobbying had to be done in secret. It was complicated by the fact that the guidelines as to what and what was not permissible had never been clearly drawn up.

Members began to be offered donations to their favourite sporting charities or development projects in their countries. Some members have argued that these should be allowable.

For the 2000 Games, John Coates, who led the Sydney team, offered grants to the Kenyan and Ugandan committees because he feared the votes were "slipping away". Sydney beat Beijing by two votes.

The Princess Royal, Dame Mary Glen-Haig and Craig Reedie have scrupulously represented Britain over the last 15 years. The Princess is celebrated for returning gifts from bidding cities, without thanks.

Mr Reedie, chairman of the British Olympic Association, said yesterday that when he voted for the 2002 winter Games, won by Salt Lake City, and the 2004 summer Games, no one tried to secure his vote. He said: "In fact, I cannot even remember someone directly saying to me, 'We would like you to bid for us'."



MICHEL EULER/AP

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committe, at Lausanne yesterday

Salt Lake City fears funds will dry up

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

FUNDRAISING efforts for the next Winter Olympics were in turmoil yesterday after the games' chief salesman was forced to admit that major sponsors were losing confidence in the Olympic "brand" bacuse of the Salt Lake City corruption scandal. Presentations to other potential sponsors across America have been postponed.

BMW, the German car maker, was said to be one of two "top-tier" sponsors withholding confirmation of deals until after a report due today from the International Olympic Committee's headquarters in Lausanne. "We will know on Monday how fast we can really begin the healing process," John Krimsky, Salt Lake City's chief fundraiser said at the weekend.

Salt Lake City's Olympic fundraising ground to a halt two months ago when it became known that nearly $500,000 in bribes and inducements had been paid to IOC members for their votes in 1995. Claims have since emerged of additional cash payments of up to $100,000 to some Third World members easily impressed by lavish hospitality.

The immediate result is a $244 million shortfall in private sector funds that the city was counting on, not least to help to build an entire new ski resort in the northern Wasatch mountains for the downhill skiing events. The long-term implications are graver still, with fears mounting that the lavish corporate backing that saved the Olympic movement 15 years ago could dry up if the IOC fails to "clean house" convincingly over the next few days.

Up to a dozen key sponsors have chosen to bide their time before committing millions to an event whose image may not now be rescued before it takes place. The worst fear of both Utah and IOC officials yesterday was of a counter-attack by implicated IOC members. It was far from clear yesterday that all those asked to explain their conduct would go quietly.

Salt Lake City still hopes to raise $1.45 billion in all for the 2002 games, and to earn back nearly double that. But in the world of Olympic sponsorship, hitherto one of the most lucrative corporate casinos, all bets are now off.

Sydney organisers worry that sponsors may be put off

FROM DAVID WATTS IN BRISBANE

THE Olympic bribery scandal sent shivers through Sydney games organisers already worried about their financial viability. With sponsors worried about the tarnishing of the Olympics, there are serious concerns that the $A230 million (about £90 million) in sponsorship that Sydney still needs to raise will not be forthcoming.

Among the sponsors whose support could melt away are such firms as Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak, Xerox, McDonald's and Visa. At the weekend, the Australian International Olympic Committee member, Kevan Gosper, gave warning that the controversial assistance offered to African delegates went "beyond goodwill" and could cost the city the 2000 games. However, last night he said that he had no reason to believe that the sweeteners offered to Uganda and Kenya constituted bribery.

The Australian Olympic Committee president, John Coates, had started the flurry of concern over the Sydney games by revealing that the night before the vote to decide the venue for the 2000 games he had offered two African officials $A50,000 each to develop sport in their countries if the Sydney bid was successful.

Sydney beat its chief rival, Beijing, in the vote by 45-43 to win the games. Mr Coates maintains that the offer was not a bribe but agrees that the inducement may well have been the turning-point. One of the men to whom he offered the money, Charles Mukora, of Kenya, has already been identified as being sufficiently corrupt to warrant expulsion from the International Olympic Committee. The other man was Major-General Francis Nyangweso of Uganda.

Even before the present furore, there were concerns over the loss that Sydney might suffer from the games when the federal Government refused to grant tax exempt status to many of the developments relating to their staging.

The Australians' fears about the future of the games have been heightened by calls from the rival city Manchester that they be re-sited. Graham Stringer, a former leader of Manchester City Council and now an MP for the city, said that the IOC should "take a very serious look at whether the games can be moved from Sydney".

Mr Coates said there was no chance of Sydney losing the games though the IOC could be asked to vote to re-affirm the winners of the Summer 2000 Games, the Salt Lake Winter 2002 Games and the Athens Summer Games of 2004. He said he believed that Sydney could never have won the games without offering extras but he did not know whether his inducements to the two African delegates had swung it in Sydney's favour. "I'll die not knowing if those two voted for us, or if they tell me they voted for us, whether they are truthful or not — I won't know that." He said it was not officially sanctioned bribery but assistance to athletes and coaches.

Provided the Sydney games do not founder the British athletes are assured plenty of goodies when they stay on the Queensland Gold Coast in the lead-up to the Olympics. They are being offered free golf games, other tourist attractions, VIP transport and use of sporting facilities worth hundreds of thousands of dollars by the local authority. The Gold Coast mayor said the benefits to the area would far outweigh the costs. It was hoped that $A5-10 million will be generated by the team's presence and through increased tourism.

هكذا من الأصل

Libel expert faces £45,000 bill for feud with partners

Carter-Ruck may seek arbitration to end seven-month dispute, reports **Frances Gibb**

THE libel lawyer whose name strikes fear into writ recipients is facing a bill of tens of thousands of pounds for legal fees after failing to resolve a dispute with his own partners.

Peter Carter-Ruck who prides himself on his negotiating skills and a belief that one should "settle rather than sue", may be forced to go to arbitration.

The dispute, now seven months old, arose when the 84-year-old solicitor, a household name and the butt of innumerable *Private Eye* jokes, decided to end his 60-year legal career. Instead of champagne celebrations, he became embroiled in a complicated disagreement and found his name removed as senior partner from the head of the firm's list of partners.

The new letterhead relegated him to "founder and consultant" as if, he told friends at the time, he was some Victorian founder who no longer existed. Now, to further the ignominy, his name has been removed from the firm's website as being involved the libel victory secured for the MPs Neil Hamilton and Gerald Howarth.

Far from retiring, the *éminence grise* of the libel world continues to go into his office, handle cases and send clients the original notepaper with his name on the top. But the dispute is taking its toll. He is believed to have run up fees of £45,000 with the country's biggest law firm, Clifford Chance. The firm has indicated that it will charge much less than that but Mr Carter-Ruck has still been forced to change to a smaller firm of solicitors, Swepstone Walsh.

Yesterday Mr Carter-Ruck said that he could not comment on the situation but Anne-Marie Pagett, who until December was a partner with Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, said that he might be forced, with reluctance, to go to arbitration.

"There are two sides to every story and I am good friends with the other partners. But everyone there owes their career to Peter, and I think a certain generosity would not come amiss," she said.

Andrew Stephenson, a partner with the firm, said that he could not comment but the partners are believed to hope that a settlement is close.

Mr Carter-Ruck had wanted to relinquish his 18 per cent stake in the firm and remain a consultant on a fixed salary of some £60,000 for three years. The deal was that the five partners in the firm would retain his name. In return, he wanted four other solicitors on the staff to be promoted to full partnership. But the existing partners disagreed.

That part of the dispute is believed now to have been settled. The only stumbling block is thought to be legal fees. It was "incredible," Ms Pagett said, that that matter was still unresolved.

"This should have been a wonderful time for Peter, when he could take a slightly more back-seat role and enjoy the fruits of many years of toil," she said. After all, clients still want to speak to him and his name still draws them in."



Carter-Ruck prefers his old letterhead, bottom, to the one describing him as a "consultant"



When in Rome: an "empire dress" by Yumi Katsura, with blue pearls and shoulder straps like neo-classical capitals, is modelled at Rome's high-fashion show

£2m art raiders also took £20 for petrol

By Paul Wilkinson

ARMED robbers who stole art works valued at £2 million also took a £20 note from a gallery attendant to buy petrol for their getaway car.

The two masked men made off from York City Art Gallery with 20 works, including a Turner watercolour worth £500,000, after tying up staff and holding them at gunpoint.

The raiders cut canvasses from frames and removed 14th century painted wall-panels. When they came to make their escape they realised their vehicle was low on fuel. So the raiders, who called each other Bert and Tony, took the cash from the wallet of one of the attendants as he lay bound and gagged on the floor.

Detective Inspector Phil Metcalfe said yesterday: "It was unbelievable audacity and suggests these two were not just happy with their huge haul but callous as well."

During the raid, just as the gallery was closing on Friday evening, the thieves loaded an automatic pistol in front of the three male attendants and a woman gift-shop assistant. They warned them not to raise the alarm and, as one man stood over them with a sawn-off shotgun, the other tied them up. The staff were not injured but had to be treated for shock and trauma.

Several works were damaged as they were crudely cut from their frames in an attempt to remove them. One Italian panel painting was split in two and abandoned on the gallery floor with other works damaged by the raiders.

Mr Metcalfe was convinced that the men were stealing to order. He said: "It seems these men knew what they were after. I wouldn't be surprised if their haul has already left the country." Full descriptions of the works are being compiled for circulation. Ports and airports are being alerted.

Among the stolen works are two 14th century gold panels of St Peter and St Paul by Marino Di Bartolammeo; two paintings by Walter Sickert; and a collection very early Italian painted and gold panels.

Richard Green, curator at the gallery, said: "This is the blackest day in our history." The loss of 19 oil paintings and panels and the Turner, an 1820s watercolour of the ruin of Rievaulx Abbey, had left them "devastated". He said: "What has gone is irreplaceable and the robbers seem to have had some kind of plan. They went mainly for small paintings which could be easily removed. Many are by lesser-known artists with not the most glamorous names like Monet, but as interesting, and incredibly important to us."



The Turner watercolour, estimated to be worth £500,000, which was stolen from York City Art Gallery.

Much ado about loveless 'I do'

By Adrian Lee

A COUPLE who were matched by a radio station but have never met will marry today in defiance of the protests of Church leaders.

Carla Germaine, 23, a model, and Greg Cordell, 28, a sales manager, won a competition called Two Strangers and a Wedding. They have spoken only once, by telephone, and will meet for the first time at the civil marriage ceremony in Birmingham.

They were selected from 200 hopefuls and matched after a panel, including an astrologer and staff from the local radio station BRMB, analysed their personalities and interests. They will receive a Caribbean honeymoon and a canalside flat and a sports car for a year.

BRMB said that the competition was an experiment based on the model of the arranged marriage traditional in Asian cultures. Christian church leaders have urged BRMB to halt the wedding, saying that it will undermine the sanctity of marriage.

In a joint letter, the Right Rev Mark Santer, Anglican Bishop of Birmingham, the Most Rev Maurice Couve de Murville, the city's Roman Catholic archbishop, and the Rev Christina Le Moignan, from the Free Churches, told the radio station: "What you have arranged deliberately prevents the couple meeting and reduces a sacred and momentous decision to a media event. Both marriage and the human beings involved are too important to be manipulated in this way."

MPs and the marriage guidance group Relate have also criticised the wedding. Tim Rudman, a spokesman for BRMB, said that Mr Cordell and Miss Germaine were free to change their minds "right up until 'I do'".

★★★ Worth buying

Bloody reality of Ulster beatings

Martin Fletcher speaks to an ambulanceman who has treated many of the victims

AFTER 21 years as an ambulanceman in northwest Belfast, Laurence Robertson has probably attended more victims of "punishment beatings" and kneecappings than anyone else in Northern Ireland.

He has been called out hundreds of times from the Ardoyne ambulance station, which is between the loyalist Shankill and republican Ardoyne areas of the city, to treat those attacked on waste ground or in back alleys by paramilitary thugs who use naked terror to control their housing estates. "The stories you hear in the back of an ambulance are unbelievable," Mr Robertson told *The Times*.

He talked in chilling detail about a barbaric practice so common in Northern Ireland that most mutilation attacks warrant only a couple of paragraphs in the local press. "You never get used to it. You can't. Every single call is an individual human being. Its not just another statistic," he said. "I've had my fill of them."

The paramilitaries often summon the ambulances and wait till they hear the sirens before kneecapping their victims. That way the victims do not die if the bullets hit an artery. On one occasion when Mr Robertson's ambulance was called to a shooting off the Antrim Road, "as we came into the street a man approached with a mask and his hand in his breast-pocket and said: 'Just drive around the block.' We heard the bang. When we came back there was this guy lying in the road."

On another occasion his ambulance was summoned to a punishment beating near the Ballymurphy estate. "We pulled into a dark street at about 4am. Three cars pulled up next to the ambulance. Some guys jumped out with masks and hurling sticks and went into the house. The hall light went on. We heard bangs and thumps and screams. The guys jumped in the cars and sped off. A girlfriend came out screaming and we went in."

The victims may be summoned to be kneecapped and duly present themselves because the alternative is exile — or worse. "They are told: 'We want you here 9.00 tomorrow night. We're only going to do one leg. If you don't show up we will get you tomorrow or next week but we will get you.' They go because they live in the community, have lived there all their lives and their families live there."

Some kneecappings lead to permanent disablement or death but most of the victims are shot through the calf or thigh and suffer little long-term damage. Mr Robertson, 42, says: "If someone came up and said you can have five men with sticks or a gun I would say: shoot me. I would take my chance. Some of these beatings are absolutely horrific."

In "crucifixions" the victim is tied to railings, upside down and spread-eagled, and beaten mercilessly. Mr Robertson has seen men with multiple fractures to their legs and arms requiring plates, pins and screws.

There have been thousands of mutilation attacks during the Troubles. The Belfast human rights group Families Against Intimidation and Terror has recorded 1,076 by loyalist and republican paramilitaries since 1993. Many more go unreported.

Locals call the paramilitaries the "hairy men" or "the circuit judge", as in "the circuit judge has been out again tonight", said Mr Robertson, and the attacks have been tolerated by the communities involved. They usually occur in areas where the police have lost control and the victims are generally reckoned to have been drug dealers, joyriders or petty thieves who deserved to be punished.

That may be starting to change, thanks to recent cases where the victims were patently innocent and they or their relatives dared to speak out. Increasingly the paramilitaries are seen not as a policing force but groups seeking power and money.

Last April an IRA gang looking for a child molester broke into the wrong flat and shot an elderly man through both knees and ankles. Three months later Andrew Kearney, 33, bled to death in a block of flats after his kneecappers ripped out the telephone and jammed the lift doors. He had dared stand up to the IRA's North Belfast commander.

Last week *The Times* reported the case of Andrew Peden, a Belfast father who had both legs amputated after being kneecapped by the Ulster Volunteer Force for giving a lift to a friend from a rival loyalist group. "You never approved of [these attacks] but you felt the victims had done something," said his wife, who has now utterly changed her opinion. "They are judge, jury and executioner," Mr Peden said.

"Nobody deserves to be shot or beaten to a pulp by a mob of masked men," Mr Robertson said. "The law is there to deal with joyriders or breaking into old people's houses and taking £10. Some are picked out by word of mouth and totally innocent. Some are 16, 17 or 18-year-olds. Some are absolutely tragic."

SUNDAY LIFE



Wedding joy for Omagh bomb victim

By Melissa Kite

A VICTIM of the Omagh bomb is to marry the English boyfriend that she had met only once before he rushed to her bedside as she lay badly injured.

Sandy Smith, 23, and Mark Blackwell had kept in touch by phone after meeting on holiday. After hearing she had been injured in the bombing on August 15 last year, Mr Blackwell, 31, from Lancaster, travelled to Ireland and kept a bedside vigil in the intensive care unit at the Erne Hospital in Co Tyrone.

It was there that he proposed on bended knee. They plan to marry on June 25, exactly a year after they met in Devon. "I'd never been to Northern Ireland but I just had to get to Sandy," Mr Blackwell said.

"I grabbed one change of clothes and my friends lent me the money. I only intended staying for two weeks. But I realised I loved Sandy so much that I couldn't leave her."

Miss Smith, who suffered severe shrapnel injuries and whose left leg is paralysed from the knee, said that she hoped their story would give hope to other victims. "It shows that love can conquer evil and that, with the courage and the will to live, you can have a new future. Mark has been my strength, he has encouraged me throughout to be positive and count my blessings."

Miss Smith's best friend, Julia Hughes, 21, was one of the 29 people killed in the Real IRA bombing. They were standing just 10ft from where the bomb went off.

Counsellors are helping her come to terms with the mental trauma. "I am not the person I was before August last year," she said. "I can't be my old self. I am always depending on other people to do things for me that I should be able to do for myself.

"It's very hard to get used to. I used to love the gym, now I can barely walk. But you have to accept it has happened and life won't ever be the same again.

"I've cried bucketfuls every single day. I'm still grieving for Julie. But you have to accept it is not the end of everything." /PA



Sandy Smith and her fiancé, Mark Blackwell: the couple had met only once, on holiday, before Miss Smith was injured in the bombing

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy aged three saves brother

A three-year-old boy with suspected autism saved his brother's life. William and Edward Miles were playing in their garden when 20-month-old Edward fell into a 4ft-deep pond.

William, who has difficulty speaking, ran indoors to their mother, Kate. She thought that he wanted to play but by shouting and tugging her clothes he alerted her to Edward's plight. "He was lifeless and limp when I got him out but then he opened his mouth to breathe," said Mrs Miles, 30, of Ipswich. The boy was treated in hospital for a night.

Wight tax plan

The Isle of Wight is to consider charging tourists a landing tax of 50p a vehicle to help to reduce the £2 million budget deficit that the council expects next year. More than one million people visit the island every year.

Cocaine seizure

Customs officers seized 22kg of cocaine, believed to be worth up to £2.5 million, at Gatwick Airport. Charles McLeod, 31, and Denise Lambert, 30, are to appear before Crawley magistrates today charged with importing drugs.

Whisky galore

A pub landlord on the Island of Mull claims to have found the oldest bottle of malt whisky in existence. Robert MacLeod, 47, discovered the bottle of 1869 Old Tobermory at the back of his family run bar. He is not planning to sell.

Hot headed

Firefighters called by a concerned resident to a fire on the flat roof of a house in Brighton, East Sussex, found that it was a fire-eater practising his act. A brigade spokesman said: "We've never come across anything quite like that."

Buried ambition

Geoff Smith, 37, who set a record by living underground for 147 days, emerged from the garden of the Railway Inn in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and said: "I'll not be buried again until I'm carried away in my real coffin."

هكذا من الأصل

Chance find ends centuries of separation



A rare diptych is back in one piece after an expert finds the missing link, reports Dalya Alberge

THE two halves of an important 13th-century diptych have been reunited after centuries, thanks to a chance discovery. The owners of the separate pieces, which depict Christ and the Madonna, had no idea that they had come from a diptych. But the link was discovered when the owner of the left wing sent photographs to an art expert.

Joanna Cannon carried the photographs around in her bag for more than a month because they intrigued her. One day, while working on something else, she stumbled across a photograph of the right wing in a book.

"I realised this must be the other half. Then, because I had a photograph of the back of the panel and a description of the other back, I was able to match them up. I could see three hinge marks that must match up. And I had the measurements. They fitted. I realised they went together," Dr Cannon, a lecturer in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute in London, said.



Cannon: carried photos in her bag for a month

The link was confirmed by the tooled decoration, which is unusually dense. "Seeing the two together is incredibly exciting. They obviously belong, and look wonderful together."

The National Gallery persuaded the owners to part with them, allowing them to be joined together again in a £480,000 purchase.

Dillian Gordon, the gallery's early Italian curator, said: "This is a thrilling discovery." The right wing of the diptych depicts Christ as The Man of Sorrows, after his removal from the cross. Ms Gordon said that it had "long been recognised as being one of the earliest surviving examples of this image in Italian painting. It is therefore an important example of a key image in the history of Western art." The previously unknown left wing shows the Virgin and Child.

The diptych, which goes on display today, is the work of an unknown master from Umbria and has been dated to about 1260. The Man of Sorrows half was in the Stoclet private collection in Brussels. The owner of the Virgin and Child half was simply curious when he wrote to the Courtauld, and had not considered selling it.

"But both owners could see the appeal of it being linked up," said Dr Cannon, whose study of the painting will be published in next month's *Burlington Magazine*.

Dr Gordon added: "We have very few 13th-century paintings. The diptych offered a rare opportunity to acquire a painting of this date of high quality and in such good condition."

THE NATIONAL GALLERY



The similarities of the two panels were obvious from the front, and hinge marks on the back confirmed that they had once been joined

Air photos may save dream home

By Tim Jones

A COUPLE are hoping that RAF aerial photographs can help them to fight a council order to demolish half of their £200,000 country cottage.

John and Julie Mitchell have been ordered to knock down an extension, which includes stables, a double garage and a games room, that was already built on to the home they bought from an estate agent last summer.

They have been told by East Hampshire District Council that it had been in dispute with the former owner of the property in Kingsley, near Bordon, Hampshire, over the extension.

Their lawyer says that he has now discovered that the cottage was built on land formerly belonging to the Ministry of Defence and aerial photographs showed the extension was put up before the four year cut-off point at which a council could serve an enforcement notice.

Peter Eggleton, the council's district enforcement officer, said: "Although we sympathise with the Mitchells, they have inherited a house with an existing planning dispute and there is unfortunately nothing we can do.

"To keep the exension the Mitchells will have to prove it was completed when they say it was."

Mrs Mitchell said: "The whole thing has been horrendous. All we want to do is keep the house as it is. We bought it because it had everything we wanted."

We don't need Lib Dems, says Prescott

Remarks highlight existing tensions between Labour MPs, reports Jill Sherman

JOHN PRESCOTT dismissed the need for further links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats yesterday, saying that the party did not need help from anyone else to achieve its manifesto commitments.

His comments came as Paddy Ashdown, the outgoing Liberal Democrat leader, predicted that his party would have ministers in a Labour government after the next election and that his successor would maintain co-operation with the Labour Party.

A BBC poll of 196 Liberal Democrat chairmen appeared to endorse that view, with 50 per cent supporting the existing arrangements, 31 per cent wanting further ties and 14 per cent against links.

But Mr Prescott's remarks will fuel existing tensions among Labour MPs about whether the co-operation between the two parties should be extended, and underlines his rift with the Prime Minister over the issue. At a meeting with Tony Blair last week several senior backbenchers expressed their concern about further collaboration with the Liberal Democrats and Mr Blair was said to have assured them that no new steps would be taken without consulting the party.

Downing Street has since denied that that was ever said and yesterday officials confirmed that Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer, and Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat deputy leader, would be meeting this week to discuss areas of further co-operation. A Downing Street spokesman refused to be drawn on the detail but it has been suggested that welfare — particularly pensions — could be one area of common ground. "There will be an extension of co-operation but we haven't said in what areas," the spokesman said.

Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday made a number of disparaging remarks about the Liberal Democrats, claiming there was no need for "anybody else" to help Labour to create a better Britain. He said that Labour had a majority of 170 and could carry out its pledges on its own and that he had no interest in who succeeded Mr Ashdown.

Mr Prescott also dismissed hopes expressed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a Liberal Democrat peer, that the two parties would unite to dominate the next century. "Roy Jenkins has gone through more political parties that I've had dinners," he said jokingly. But Mr Ashdown used an interview with BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* to suggest much closer links between the two parties. "The Liberal Democrats, over the past year, have moved from a party of protest to a party of power," he said.

"The final threshold that takes the Liberal Democrat party into government I think we now leave to my successor. Probably after the next election the Liberal Democrats will move into government."

Mr Ashdown said that his party would, under its new leader, carry on working with Labour to introduce "those reforms and modernisations which our country can benefit from". He insisted that the links would continue because the Prime Minister was determined to keep them and they were in the interests of both parties.

"We have been working on this, Mr Blair and I, for four or five years," Mr Ashdown said, likening the initial dialogue to a hesitant crossing across a rope bridge.

"That rope bridge has now been replaced by a multilane highway," he said, with several ministers taking part in cross-party talks with Liberal Democrats. He insisted that 80 per cent of party members supported the links with Labour.

Mr Ashdown also let slip that he was expecting his successor to be a Scot. Asked by Sir David Frost about who Rory Bremner would now have to impersonate, Mr Ashdown said they would have a "Scotch" accent. The three potential candidates known to be considering standing who would fit that bill are Charles Kennedy, Menzies Campbell and Malcolm Bruce. Nick Harvey, the MP for North Devon, who is said by some quarters to be favoured by the leader, is not a Scot.

Mr Harvey, whose campaign is the most organised, suffered a setback when the BBC poll of chairmen put him in fourth position. Of the 87 who wished to comment, 36 favoured Charles Kennedy, 22 Menzies Campbell, 17 Simon Hughes and only four Mr Harvey. Mr Harvey's supporters said their man needed to develop his public profile and that as campaigns manager he would have a good chance to do so in the coming months.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21



Robinson: row ended career in government

Robinson expected to quit at next election

By Roland Watson
Political Correspondent

FRIENDS of Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General, expect him to bow out of politics at the next election.

Mr Robinson, who endured a turbulent 20 months in government, is to meet his constituency party for the first time this week since his resignation at Christmas.

The millionaire businessman has been non-committal about his future and is expected to deflect questions about whether he intends to stand for his Coventry North West seat again.

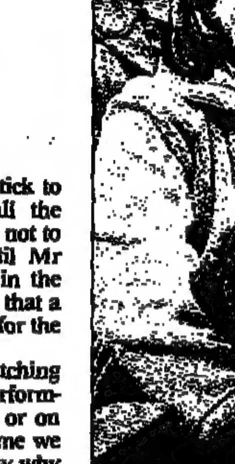
Local party members believe it is merely a matter of time before he announces he is standing down. Mr Robinson, 60, will have held the seat for 25 years by the time of the next election.

He came to political prominence only recently as patron and supporter of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. His decision to quit the Treasury after enduring relentless scrutiny of his business past, and links to the late tycoon Robert Maxwell, has ensured an end to his career in government.

With more than two years to the likely date of the next election, local party chiefs do not expect such an early declaration of his intent. Support for Mr Robinson remains high within his constituency.

Bill Thomson, chairman of Labour's Coventry North West constituency party, said the £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson was not an issue locally. He reflected, however, local uncertainty about Mr Robinson's future. He said: "As far as we are concerned he's still our MP. But people are entitled to change their mind."

Disco-dance MP faces big contest with flare



By Mark Inglefield, Political Reporter

SUZANNE HUBBARD

Simon Hughes with sixth-formers at the "Your Future in Europe" conference in Paris. He hopes that the leadership contest will be gentlemanly

SIMON HUGHES will not say if he will run in the Liberal Democrat leadership contest, but this has not stopped the MP from considering two important points: will his passion for groovy nightclubs or his preferred mode of transport, a canary-yellow London taxi, wreck his chances?

"It may be that if I became party leader I would have to give up the taxi," he concedes. And the clubs? Mr Hughes, 47, is a devotee of Starsky and Hutch, a 1970s retro hangout in South London which encourages its clientele to don flared trousers. "A little innocent club music does nobody any harm," he says. "But it's probably regarded as more appropriate for the twenty- and thirtysomethings than the fortysomethings."

Mr Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, made these observations in Paris at the weekend, where he addressed 3,000 sixth-formers on Britain's role in Europe. Although he is keen to stick to the line agreed by all the would-be candidates — not to come out fighting until Mr Ashdown steps down in the summer — he is aware that a phoney war will ensue for the next six months.

"Everyone will be watching if we put in a good performance in the Commons or on television, and every time we do they'll say, 'We know why they're doing that'."

At the moment, all is calm. The five hopefuls have met and agreed that the leadership contest should be a gentlemanly affair. "We can only try and I hope that it will be," Mr Hughes says. "The next step would be to reach an agreement that none of us would say anything negative about anybody else. That would be an extremely good breakthrough."

It looks set to be a tough battle. According to the poll of the party's local chairmen, Mr Hughes is in third place, behind Charles Kennedy and Menzies Campbell. The other contenders are Nick Harvey and Malcolm Bruce. The crucial issue will be whether Mr Ashdown's collaboration policy with Labour should be extended, or drawn back. Mr Hughes belongs to the drawback wing of the party. "Most of the collaboration so far has been to implement what we agreed before the last election," he says. "Like the others, I'm going to respect the line between what I may say in June or July if I was to stand, and the view I have now about what we're doing."

Mr Hughes entered Parliament in 1983, beating Labour's candidate, Peter Tatchell, the homosexual rights campaigner, in a by-election. He is currently the party spokesman on health and urban policy. Before becoming an MP he was an employment barrister, sometimes encountering another lawyer, Tony Blair. "We used to have the occasional drink, but we weren't great friends," he says.

He is a helpful person, an attribute he displayed as we travelled back to London on Eurostar. He promised a horde of rowdy photocopy salesmen from Kent (who were celebrating a good month) that he would look into how they could pitch for a contract at the House of Commons. He also said that he would assist a waiter with a degree in journalism to get a job. "You can make connections for people if you're an MP," he said.

Mr Hughes commends Paddy Ashdown as a leader, but does not want his endorsement as a preferred candidate. "I can't imagine the party would take kindly to it and I can't imagine it would be very helpful to any person who featured in that."

One of the reasons why Mr Hughes is careful about discussing the leadership job is that he is the party's most likely candidate for the mayorship of London. "In a way, nobody would be wise to make a decision about whether they want to be a candidate now because six months down the track goodness knows what the political landscape will look like."

Of the five likely candidates, only one, Mr Campbell, is married. "Leaders over the years have been married and unmarried. I don't think it's a central issue," Mr Hughes says.

He does not mind that his life would be placed under scrutiny as leader, which he concedes can be a "nightmare" job. "You have to go to the party saying, 'Look, I don't think there are any skeletons in the cupboard that would be a problem for the party'."

Could Starsky and Hutch prove an embarrassment? "All I can say is that there are people considerably older than me there. And I don't go on my own. That would be a very sad state of affairs."

Hurd aide picked to advise Blair

A Tory right-hand man is moving to No 10, writes Valerie Elliott

A DIPLOMAT who was Douglas Hurd's closest confidant during his period as Foreign Secretary is to become Tony Blair's foreign affairs adviser.

John Sawers, 43, the political counsellor at the Washington Embassy, met Mr Blair briefly in November. He joins the Downing Street 15-hour-a-day treadmill next month when John Holmes, the official described as Mr Blair's "security blanket", becomes Ambassador to Lisbon.

Mr Sawers will be the FO's eyes and ears inside No 10. He has been closely involved in the Iraq conflict and while working for Douglas Hurd was in a group developing Northern Ireland policy for John Major. He will not, however, assume Mr Holmes's role as the Prime Minister's principal private secretary. That will be taken by Jeremy Heywood, who will also be "sherpa" for the Prime Minister at the G8 economic summit.

It is understood that Mr Blair chose Mr Sawers not just for his intellect and reputation for hard work but because he would fit in with the private office team, headed by Jonathan Powell. Mr Powell and Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, both interviewed Mr Sawers.

Mr Sawers is probably one of the most "classless" of FO staff. One former colleague said: "When you meet him, you would never think that he was from the Foreign Office. His rise is purely meritocratic and he has not relied on any old boy network." The son of a Rolls-Royce engineer, Mr Sawers went to grammar school in Bath and studied physics and philosophy at Nottingham University. He stayed on for a fourth year to be secretary of the student union but was not elected on a party political ticket.

According to another diplomat, Mr Sawers is unflappable but can also be "heretical" in his policy ideas — a feature particularly appreciated by Lord Hurd of Westwell. They got on so well that they used to go for early morning swims together when attending meetings abroad.

Mr Sawers was particularly involved in the intense negotiation of the Maastricht treaty and getting the Bill through Parliament. He also had a key role on policy in Bosnia, where the Government tried to achieve a balance between alleviating conflict and ensuring humanitarian relief.

Like Mr Blair, Mr Sawers is a strong family man. His wife, Shelley, is an actress turned teacher, and they have two sons and a daughter, Oliver, 15, Sam, 13, and Corinne, 11.

He was a member of the Labour Party in the 1970s and was an early member of the SDP, but has not been involved in party politics since.

Navy women rule the waves off Freetown

FROM SAM KILEY
ON HMS NORFOLK



DRYING panties have replaced pin-ups in *HMS Norfolk's* cabins. The swearing of sailors is also part of a vanished past. For the ship carrying the battle honours for the sinking of the *Bismarck* and now patrolling the coast of Sierra Leone is run by a corps of women officers in their twenties backed by others manning the weapons and controlling the ship's engines.

The *Norfolk*, a 4,000-tonne frigate armed with a 4.5-in gun, and a bewildering array of missiles, has been transformed by the arrival of the women officers and ratings, among the first allowed to go to sea since the Royal Navy changed centuries of tradition seven years ago.

"When I joined and went to Dartmouth 12 years ago we were taught things like what sort of make-up to wear and were ordered not to run in uniform because it was undignified," said the senior woman on board, Lieutenant-Commander Allison Towler, 34.

Now the officer who is in charge of boarding other vessels during searches for smuggled arms, sanctions-busting in Iraqi waters or drugs in the Caribbean wears lipstick, earrings and a bob. Lieutenant Karen Hibberd, 24, who was among the first ten women to go to sea as a Royal Navy officer, commands the boarding team who "get fully gunned up" and abseil down ropes from a Lynx helicopter hovering 30ft above hostile vessels.

Looking towards Freetown across waters polluted by the bodies of the victims of weeks of fighting and rebel atrocities which were continuing in the capital yesterday, Lieutenant Hibberd spotted a body bleached white by days in the sea. "We had a leg go by this morning," she said.

All three of the ship's watch officers, including Lieutenant Hibberd, who are responsible for the day-to-day command of the bridge, are trained to use everything from a pistol to the Sea Wolf anti-missile defences. Until 1991 they would have been banned from wearing trousers and confined to desk jobs ashore.

"There would have been no point joining up then. The whole point of being in the Navy is to be at sea, not sitting at a desk doing the same thing as a civilian but earning half as much," said Lieutenant Andrea McEwan. "Now we are properly trained along with everybody else. There is no part of a sailor's job that is closed to us."

"The women on board have had a civilising influence. The *Norfolk* has a squeaky clean record. Even ashore there are very seldom arrests for drunkenness or violent behaviour," Lieutenant Hibberd said.

Intimacy between the 163 men and the 22 women on the *Norfolk* is barred by a rule which forbids anything more than a handshake and a pat on the back. "That's on shore too," said Lt-Cmdr Towler.

Yesterday the *Norfolk* surgeon, Lieutenant Emma Knight, 26, arrived in Freetown escorted by Royal Marines to set up a clinic.



SAM KILEY

Royal Navy lieutenants Karen Hibberd, right, and Nicola Tregassis on the bridge of *HMS Norfolk* on patrol off the coast of Sierra Leone

Scientists 'could create artificial life in ten years'

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS believe it might be possible within a decade to create artificial life, the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Anaheim, California, was told yesterday.

A simple organism could be created piece by piece, assembling the genes in the right order from knowledge gained by analysing the simplest of free-living organisms. The result would be a stripped-down and entirely man-made version of a parasite commonly found in the human body.

This Frankenstein possibility was raised by Dr Craig Venter, one of the world's foremost experts in gene sequencing. He said he believed the experiment was possible, but that he would not go ahead until full consideration had been given to the ethical implications.

Dr Venter is well known in the genetic community for developing a rapid system for discovering the sequences of the four basic letters in the genetic alphabet that make up the genes. The ultimate aim is to produce a full sequence of all 80,000 human genes, but 20 simpler organisms have already been sequenced, including a number of parasites and bacteria, such as those responsible for causing TB and stomach ulcers.

The idea of creating life comes from experiments designed to identify the smallest number of genes that any free-living creature needs to survive. Dr Venter, of Celera Genomics Corporation, believes that about 300 genes is the least possible. He reached this conclusion from comparisons of the complete sequences of two human parasites, *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

The simpler of these is *genitalium*, which is found in the human genitary tract but which is not known to cause any disease. It has 470 genes, about 200 less than *pneumoniae*, which is found in the respiratory tract and can cause pneumonia.

In a series of experiments in which genes are "knocked out" and the effect on the organism observed, Dr Venter and his colleagues are seeking to identify how many genes are needed for an organism of this sort to keep itself alive and functioning, and what they are. Once this is known, it might be possible to assemble the entire genome from the four basic chemicals, put together in the right order to make up the backbone of the man-made organism's DNA.

To create an organism, it would also be necessary to enclose the genes in a cell, either by using a cell emptied of its own DNA, or by creating an artificial cell by wrapping lipids (fats) around the man-made DNA to form a simple cell membrane. Dr Venter said he would not attempt it unless, after careful consideration, a committee of experts agreed that the benefits of creating life exceeded the risks.

He has put the idea to a high-level group of scientists, ethicists and churchmen at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "So far the group hasn't come up with any religious objections," he said. "It would be extremely difficult, and it is not clear that it is do-able, but I think public discussion of the issue is worthwhile in any case. It gets down to the fundamental definitions of what life is."

He said that the danger with the technology is that it might be misused to create biological weapons, but the positive side is potentially greater.

Stinging cure

A giant scorpion could provide a new way to treat a brain tumour (Nigel Hawkes writes). The toxin in the scorpion's venom, designed to paralyse the creature's prey, is able to seek out certain brain cells that have turned cancerous, Dr Harald Sontheimer, of the University of Alabama, said. He has tested venom from an Israeli scorpion in test tubes and on mice.

Garden of Eden 'was in Ethiopia'

GENETIC studies suggest that the Garden of Eden was in Ethiopia or Somalia, the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been told (Nigel Hawkes writes).

A team led by Dr Sarah Tishkoff of Pennsylvania University looked at DNA samples from 18 African populations and 45 populations from elsewhere in the world. They found much greater diversity in African populations, which is consistent with mankind in Africa having evolved for a longer period — and thus having started earlier — than populations elsewhere.

A closer look at the data suggests that groups that left Africa and populated the rest of the world came from Ethiopia and Somalia.



Le Pen fury as his party splits

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French National Front ruptured yesterday into bitterly antagonistic halves, accompanied by a level of acrimony rare even for Europe's largest extreme right-wing party.

Bruno Mégret, the former deputy head of the party who is fighting to oust its veteran leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, was elected president of the breakaway National Front-National Movement (Mouvement National) at an extraordinary congress in the southern far-right stronghold of Marignane, completing a breach open for six weeks and simmering for years.

About 17,000 of the party's 40,000 members signed petitions in favour of holding the congress, which was boycotted by M Le Pen and which he dismissed as an assembly of "Lilliputians", a reference to M Mégret's diminutive stature.

M Mégret's challenge to M Le Pen has left both sides straining their vocabularies in search of the most offensive insults. The Mégretists condemned M Le Pen's backers as parasites and compared their 70-year-old chief to a cult leader drunk with power. To symbolise what they insist is M Le Pen's irrelevance, they appointed him to the mocking title of "honorary president" of the National Front-National Movement in recognition of his "historic" role.



Mégret hails launch of his new far-right group

M Le Pen, a dab hand at trading unpleasant remarks, came out marginally ahead in the vituperation stakes, describing M Mégret as a "psychopath", "paranoid" and "fraud", surrounded by "a tiny clan of conspirators".

"There is only one National Front," he thundered. "And that is the one I created nearly 30 years ago."

The first major test of the balance of power between the rival groups will come with the European elections in June, when the "Lepenist" and "Mégretist" parties will mount rival campaigns and slates of candidates. In the meantime, there is likely to be a vicious legal fight over the National Front's assets, including the party name, insignia, bank accounts and property.

The split within the xenophobic anti-immigrant party is over practical political strategy and personality differences rather than ideology. Where M Le Pen is determined to avoid diluting his extremism (and personal cachet) by alliances with more mainstream right-wing groups, the younger man believes that the National Front's route to power is through strategic and pragmatic electoral deals.

M Mégret, 48, enjoys support among the younger and richer members, and just under half the membership has given him its backing. But polls show that M Le Pen retains the loyalty of the majority of National Front voters.

The split has divided the party at every level, including the domestic. M Le Pen's daughter, Marie-Caroline, has sided with the Mégretists along with her husband, taking up a leadership role in the party seeking to remove her father.

CLAUDE PARIS / AP



A protester in Marignane mocks the far-right National Front for "losing its head"

A funeral in Berlin lays rogues to rest

INSIDE GERMANY

BY ROGER BOYES

Tommy Turnschuh, wearing his distinctive trainers below a natty charcoal suit, threw some banknotes on Franky's coffin and then the other mourners filed past the open grave tossing in roses, cuddly toys and even a packet of condoms.

Berlin's wide-boy milieu — boxers with cauliflower ears, nightclub bosses, a racing driver, a champagne salesman, some expensively dressed policemen and many chemically blonde women young enough to have been Franky's mistresses — was saying farewell not only to a big, glossy, Runyonesque character but to its own precarious place in the city's social pecking order.

Franky, the Curry Wurst King, was 58 when he died. A cigarette ignited the large round bed in his Ku'damm flat, the flames spread to the curtains and left him no chance. We had met in the early 1980s while I was on a trip out of martial-law Poland to buy light bulbs and lavatory paper. Franky Lehmann had just sold seven sausage stands and knew more than most people about how Turkish fast-food kiosks and doner kebabs were displacing *Wurst* as the German national dish.

It seemed like a good story. He could not stand the idea of eating *Wurst* socially and he was not sure that he wanted to be seen in public with a journalist, and so we snacked on the top floor of the Harrods-like KadeWe department store, a sky-lit hell that plays piped birdsong and serves cold eggs.

Nothing of substance emerged. Franky was obviously disappointed that I was a man — he had somehow got the impression that Roger was a woman's name — and, unless I too had grasped the wrong end of the stick, he appeared to be offering me money not to write this rather peripheral story.

Such occasions are rather rare in a foreign correspondent's career (even for those of us who have served in Rome and Moscow) and the moment slipped away. Words were written, copy was cut, life moved on.

For Franky, too. He had made the curry wurst — sausage sliced up and smothered with yellow sauce — socially attractive. At the far end of the Ku'damm, Franky's Curry Station dished the meat to Frank Sinatra, Telly Savalas and Brigitte Nielsen.

But Franky realised there was more to life than pushing pork and he bought into the slot-machine parlour business. This business placed him in tricky company. The big-time owner of various Hamburg brothels became a friend (his absence from the funeral last week was bitterly noted by Tommy Turnschuh), so did Rolf Eden, the closest West Berlin ever had to a playboy.

West Berliners used to like these rags to riches stories and the city admired lovable rogues (who were in truth merely bullies with style) and that may explain why over 500 turned up at the Heerstrasse cemetery.

Although I'm no fan of funerals, I went too, squeezing past the Jaguars and Corvettes. Why was the funeral important? Because one of the defining elements of Berlin — its home-grown mobsters, fences and fixers — has given way to imported organised crime.

Russians are bringing huge sums into the city. Romanians and Bulgarians supply the brothels. Chechens, Kosovans and Kurds transfer fighting skills to drug turf wars. Some neighbourhoods are no-go areas for the police. A patrol was beaten up the other night for trying to stop a brawl in the Neu-Kölln district. Fifty Turks set upon it shouting: "These are our streets."

This is not Franky's world, full of complex criminal protocol. His city has changed; it is less of a club. The police are not as bent as 20 years ago and are better educated, yet the crime rate is far, far worse.

The old back-scratching deals with Allied quartermasters are a thing of the past. A competitive city press keeps politicians on a short leash. The criminal heart of Berlin has shifted eastwards. Berliners still do not want to accept the metamorphosis of their city.

As usual, they prefer to cling on to a myth and treat Franky as the last, perhaps the very last, of the once-and-future capital's subterranean heroes.

Bonn rejects waste compensation call

Bonn: Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, said yesterday that Germany would reject compensation demands from France or Britain over its decision to cancel nuclear waste treatment contracts worth billions of pounds.

Herr Schröder said in a television interview that Germany was making a sovereign decision to eliminate nuclear energy and that there was no legal foundation for demands from France and Britain over their loss of business processing German waste.

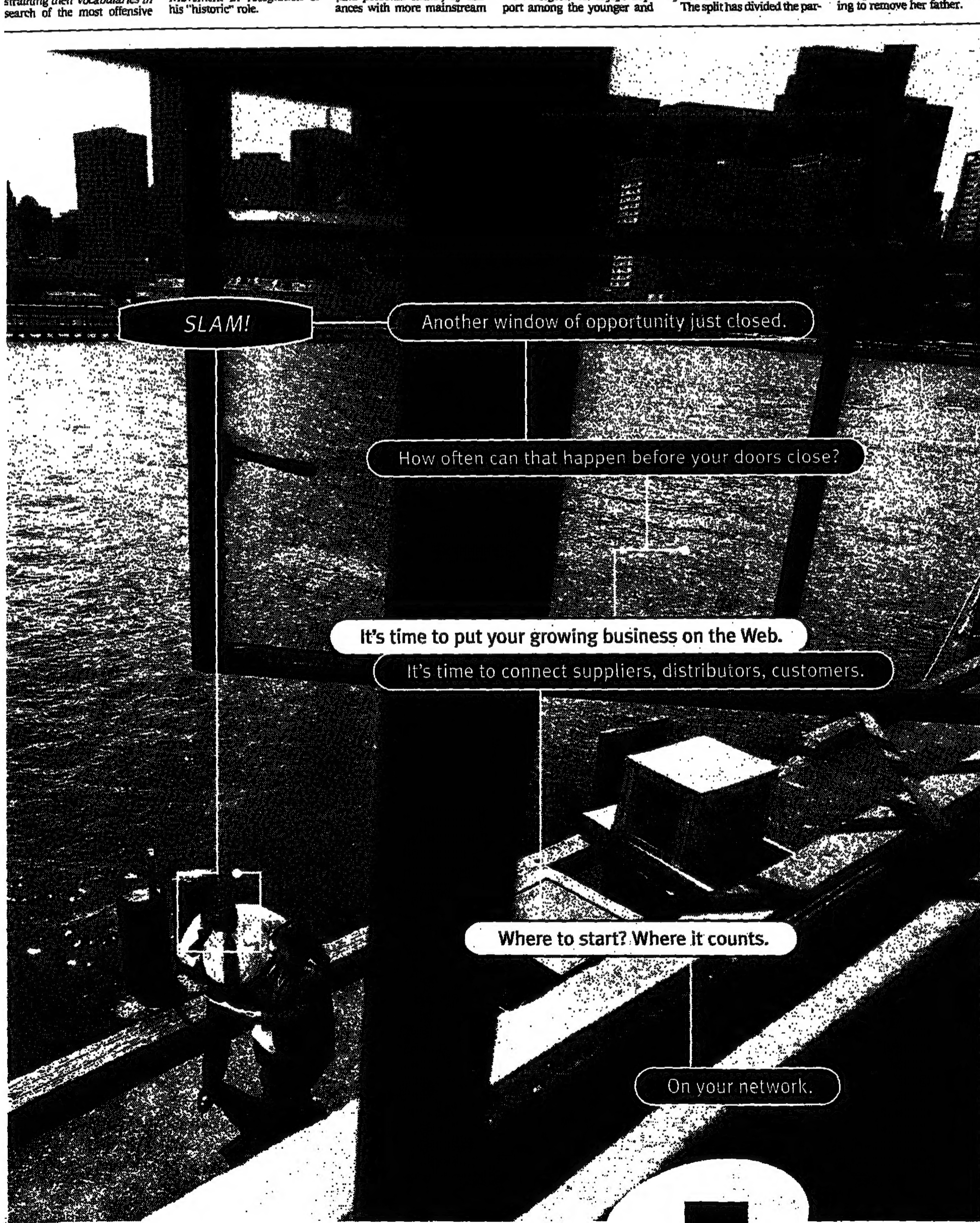
"Every government has that right," he added. "We want to get out of nuclear energy."

Bonn intends to close its 19 nuclear power plants and ban the export of nuclear waste for reprocessing. Germany has no waste-reprocessing centres.

The row has soured relations between Germany and its main European Union partners at a time when Bonn holds the EU presidency.

France and Britain have told Germany it would be breaking legal agreements if it tears up the contracts. The French company Cogéma stands to lose £3.2 billion and British Nuclear Fuels would lose £1.2 billion. *(Reuters)*

Leading article, page 21





Serbs release guerrillas in hostage swap

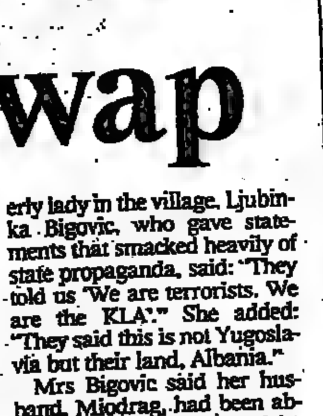
FROM TOM WALKER
IN NEVOLJANE

NINE ethnic Albanian separatists were freed by the Serbian authorities over the weekend in a hostage swap that is likely to enrage radicals in the Belgrade Government because it enhances the bargaining powers of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

William Walker, the senior international monitor in the province, while welcoming the releases as a confidence-building measure, issued a warning against a spate of tit-for-tat kidnappings. He said members of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission in Kosovo witnessed the releases.

The KLA freed five elderly Serbs it seized on Thursday almost simultaneously as the Albanians were set free on Saturday afternoon.

The release of the nine Albanians was conducted in secret with the Yugoslav Government denying any such deal. Aides of Mr Walker refused to be drawn on how separatist insurgents, who would normally face a 20-year jail term, are now at liberty. The OSCE downplayed any link between the events.



At least two of the released prisoners planned to return to the fighting as soon as possible. "This is not a crime; this is fighting for the freedom of our country," said Azem Suma, 26.

The nine, among whom was a 17-year-old girl, were part of a group of KLA guerrillas who attempted to cross the border from Albania near the British monitoring base of Prizren in December. They ran into a Yugoslav army ambush in which 36 of their colleagues were killed. The nine were imprisoned in Nis, central Serbia, and were denied access to the observers and international organisations.

The KLA had demanded their release in return for eight Yugoslav army conscripts it freed under intense OSCE pressure two weeks ago. But the furore over the Racak massacre and the subsequent threats of Nato airstrikes appeared to have scuppered all hopes of their freedom. The KLA raised the stakes last Thursday by kidnapping the five Serbs, all aged between 60 and 70, from Nevoljane, a village near the northern Kosovo town of Mitrovica.

Yesterday the five said they had no clues as to where they were held captive, but added that they had been treated reasonably well. Earlier, Serb police backed by Yugoslav army units had moved into the Nevoljane area, forcing many to take refuge in nearby towns.

The OSCE was initially sceptical of the KLA's involvement in the kidnapping. But an elderly lady in the village, Ljubinka Bigovic, who gave statements that smacked heavily of state propaganda, said: "They told us 'We are terrorists. We are the KLA'." She added: "They said this is not Yugoslavia but their land, Albania."

Mrs Bigovic said her husband, Miodrag, had been abducted at a nearby electricity distribution station where he worked and escorted to Nevoljane. "There was a knock at the door, and Miodrag said he was back. It wasn't his normal time. It was 11 o'clock at night. I opened the door and saw him covered in blood. They had his hands tied behind his back and I was forced to go to the neighbours' houses and open their doors," she said. "How can we ever live here after this?" she asked.

Her son, Zoran, who was asleep at the time, escaped the ordeal because "they never came to my house", he said. He showed reporters a crumpled photograph of the Bigovics, taken during better times on a sunny day 20 years ago in Nevoljane. "We never had trouble in those days," he said in tears.

Serbs from adjoining villages gathered around the foreign press corps to vent their frustration at the Western media. "You are all spies. We know you are paid for what you write," said one youth.

The OSCE said the Serbs were released from KLA headquarters in Likovac, while the Albanians were freed in the southwestern town of Suva Reka. The organisation would not provide any other details.

☐ **Washington:** Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, arrives in Moscow today for tough talks expected to focus on Kosovo and Iraq, two flashpoints where Russia opposes US intervention. "The Russian influence on the Serbs is important," and Washington hopes it will use it fully, Ms Albright said recently. *(AFP)*

YANNIS BEHRAKIS / REUTERS



Kosovo Liberation Army fighters stand guard at the funeral of two comrades in north Kosovo. It was attended by 10,000 ethnic Albanians



Walker: want an end to kidnappings

Europe vetoes US ultimatum to Milosevic

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN and other European members of Nato have vetoed an American proposal to issue President Milosevic with a 96-hour ultimatum this week, forcing him to comply with a long list of demands over Kosovo or face airstrikes.

Under pressure from the Europeans, the US has agreed to give diplomatic efforts one more chance before considering an ultimatum.

Washington has also been persuaded to reduce the "shopping list" of demands to just a few fundamental issues, such as the withdrawal of most of the Serb troops and police in Kosovo.

Nato diplomatic sources said that the Americans had included a whole range of demands in their draft ultimatum, including access for the international war crimes tribunal and the setting up a radio station for the Kosovo verification mission.

> 'If Belgrade did not comply with all the demands, Nato would have to bomb'

One source said: "That would mean that if Milosevic failed to comply with all the demands, Nato would be obliged to launch airstrikes, and I don't think anyone in the alliance would want to bomb if Milosevic refused to set up a radio station for the verification team."

The Americans have agreed that further thought should be given to the wording of the ultimatum and that it should be shelved until the six-nation Contact Group has exhausted all diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Kosovo.

The Contact Group met in London on Friday and demanded an end to all offensive actions in Kosovo, the safe return home of displaced families from the Racak area — scene of the massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians — co-operation with the war crimes tribunal and early negotiations on a political settlement.

Another meeting of the Contact Group has been set for Friday, also to be held in London, to coincide with the arrival of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. She is spending this week talking with Russian officials about Kosovo and other matters.

The European members of Nato felt it would be inappropriate to issue Belgrade with an airstrikes ultimatum this week while talks were under way with the Russians.

One Nato diplomatic source said: "Russia is against ultimatums and is opposed to airstrikes, and there is no point in deliberately antagonising Moscow while there is still a chance the Russians might play a part in persuading Milosevic to end the violence in Kosovo."

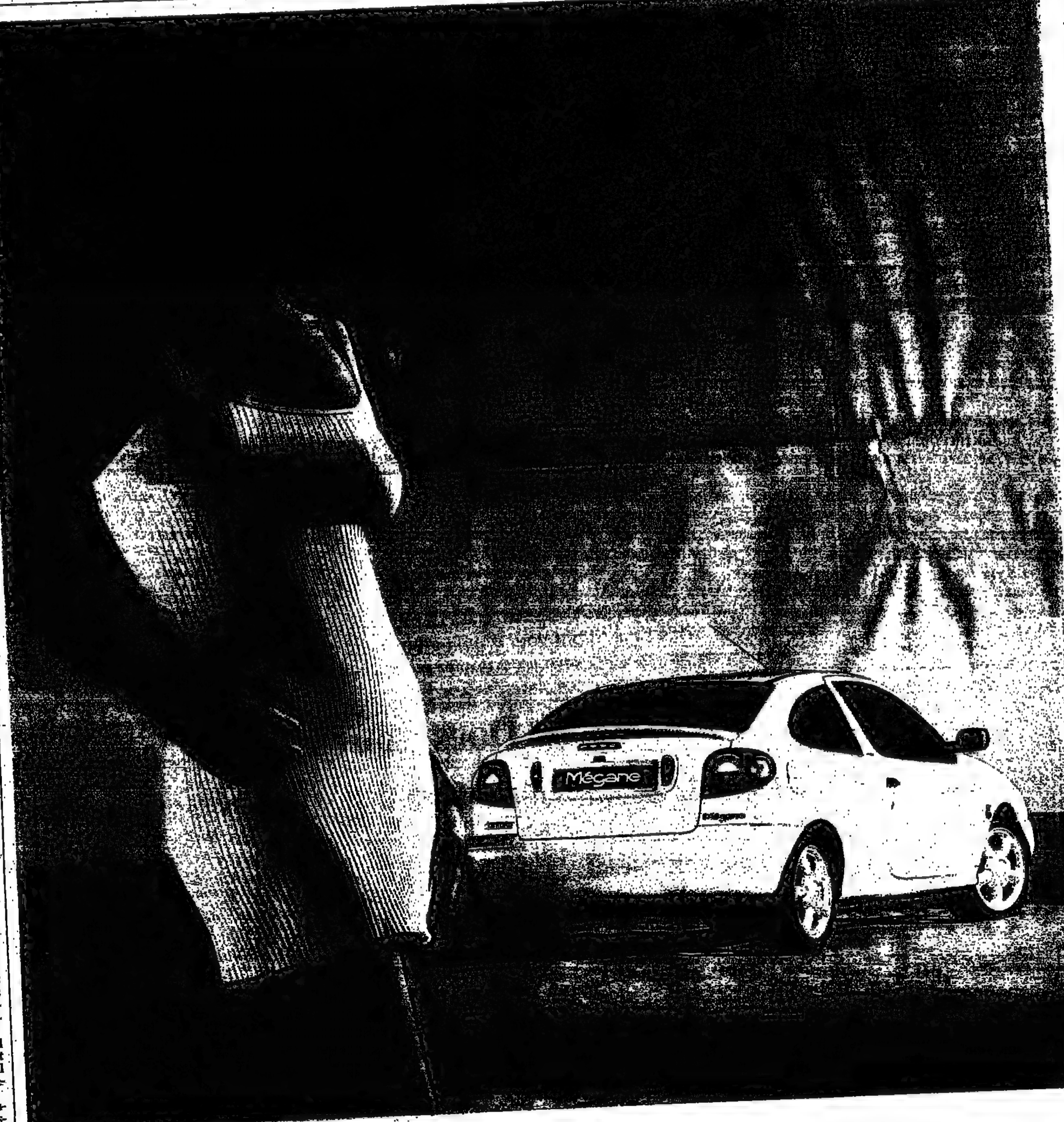
The source added: "If all diplomatic efforts fail, then it is possible that Moscow will not be so opposed to an ultimatum."

Today Nato's North Atlantic Council will meet in Brussels to review the latest efforts and to try to link up with the approach adopted by the Contact Group. European Union foreign ministers will also be meeting in Brussels today to discuss Kosovo.

One concern expressed by Nato diplomats over the weekend was that the alliance should not be seen to be biased against Mr Milosevic and in support of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

To that end, the North Atlantic Council is expected to call for urgent studies by the military planners into the possibility of sending ground troops to Albania to monitor arms smuggling into Kosovo.

Although the idea of deploying Nato troops along the border between Albania and Kosovo is acknowledged to be impractical because of the nature of the terrain and the length of the frontier, there is now a new proposal for a force to be sent to Albanian ports and airports to check on suspected arms shipments.



'Weakness' of Hussein heir led to sacking

The King was disappointed by brother's rule in his absence, Christopher Walker writes

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan removed his younger brother, Hassan, as successor to the throne after 34 years because of disappointment at the Crown Prince's leadership during the monarch's six-month absence in the US for cancer treatment, sources in Amman said yesterday.

"The King was angered by reports that Hassan was beginning to behave as a permanent ruler, promoting the interests of his own children ahead of those of Hussein's and acting as if the King was never going to return," a top banker said.

The King's displeasure was clearly visible in the body language between the two men when he returned home to a euphoric welcome last Tuesday. He refused his brother permission to travel in his car as had happened previously.

The 63-year-old Sandhurst-trained monarch informed his brother at a frosty meeting on Friday that he was no longer Crown Prince, a position he had held since the Constitution was changed in 1965 after the King had survived a number of assassination attempts and was deeply concerned about the future of the Hashemite dynasty.

Palace officials in Amman said it was expected that Prince Hassan would be offered responsibility for certain areas of national life, but without any claim to the throne which Hussein inherited from his father, Talal, at 17.

There has been speculation that the King decided on the move, which has not yet been formally announced, to ensure that one of his five sons would ascend to the throne. But the sources in Amman insisted that the main reason was what were seen as diplomatic and political blunders during the King's absence.

The strongest candidate to replace Prince Hassan was said to be the King's eldest son, Abdullah, who will be 37 later this month. Prince Abdullah — named after the King's grandfather, who was assassinated on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem — was briefly Crown Prince after he was born to Princess Muna (née Toni Gardiner), the daughter of a British Army officer.

Prince Abdullah, who is himself now married with a son, is a major-general in charge of a special forces division that oversees the security of the Royal Family. As such, he could rely on the support of the armed forces.

According to the Amman sources, the King was trying to have Prince Hamzah, 19, his much-favoured eldest son by his fourth and current wife, US-born Queen Noor, named as heir to Prince Abdullah. Such a move would ensure the 46-year-old Queen a role in Jordan after the King's death.

One Jordanian source said that it had been difficult for Hussein to replace the brother whom he virtually raised as a son, but that he felt he had no alternative. "God knows I love him as I love all my children and brought him up as my son," the King told CNN in the only interview he has granted since his return.

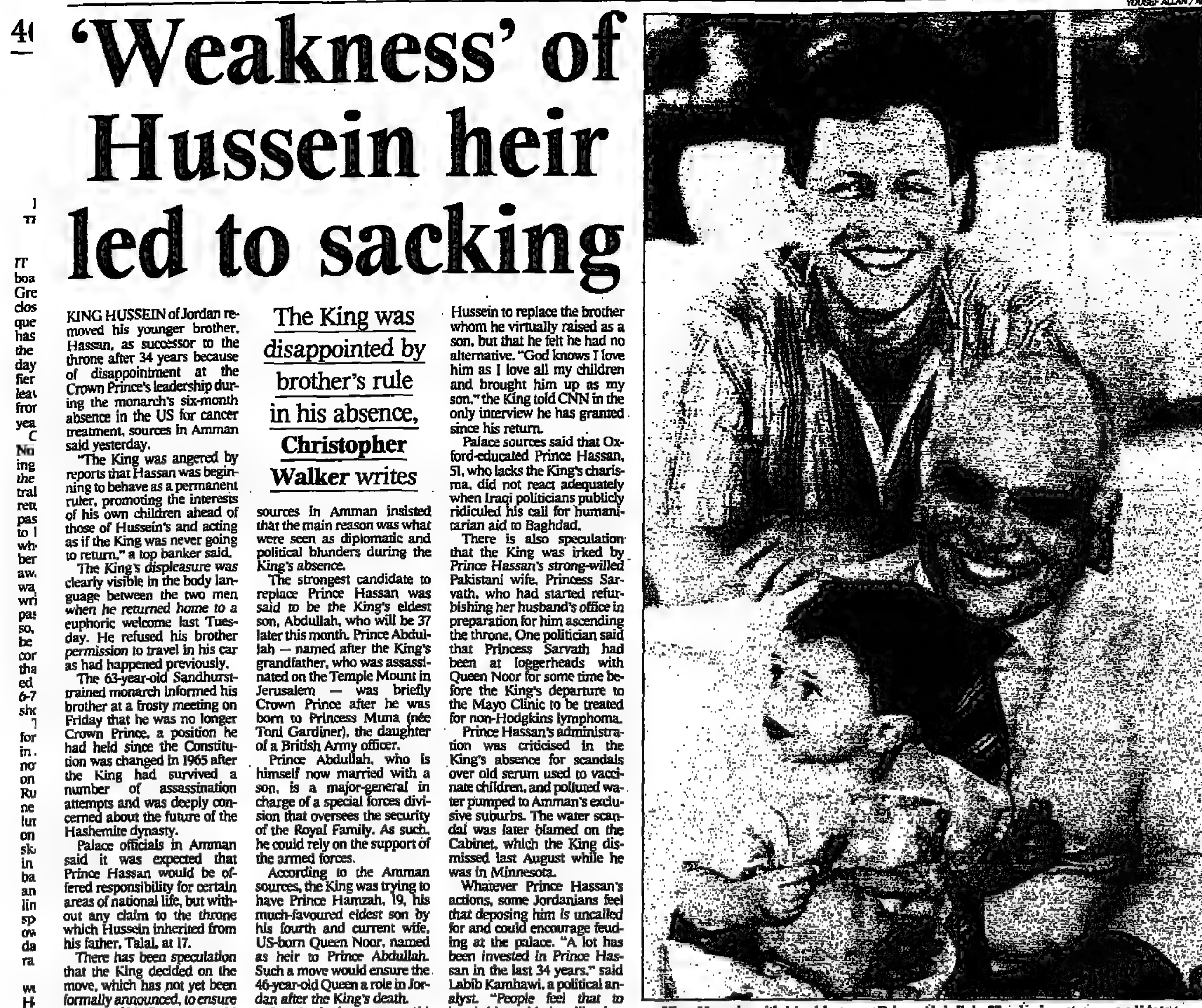
Palace sources said that Oxford-educated Prince Hassan, 51, who lacks the King's charisma, did not react adequately when Iraqi politicians publicly ridiculed his call for humanitarian aid to Baghdad.

There is also speculation that the King was irked by Prince Hassan's strong-willed Pakistani wife, Princess Sarvath, who had started refurbishing her husband's office in preparation for him ascending the throne. One politician said that Princess Sarvath had been at loggerheads with Queen Noor for some time before the King's departure to the Mayo Clinic to be treated for non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Prince Hassan's administration was criticised in the King's absence for scandals over old serum used to vaccinate children, and polluted water pumped to Amman's exclusive suburbs. The water scandal was later blamed on the Cabinet, which the King dismissed last August while he was in Minnesota.

Whatever Prince Hassan's actions, some Jordanians feel that deposing him is uncalled for and could encourage feuding at the palace. "A lot has been invested in Prince Hassan in the last 34 years," said Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst. "People feel that to brush him aside just like that is unnecessary."

YOUSEF ALLAN / AP



King Hussein with his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, 37, who is a strong candidate to be nominated as heir to the Jordanian throne, and his grandson, Hussein

Russians help Syria to make chemical arms

By Michael Evans, Defence Editor

UNOFFICIAL secret links have been uncovered between former Russian officials and Syria aimed at helping Damascus to produce advanced chemical weapons, according to intelligence sources.

Syria has been developing chemical agents since the mid-1980s, but it is now feared that sophisticated Russian technology has been passed to Syria by former members of Moscow's chemical weapons project.

Last week President Clinton issued a warning that it was likely the United States would be the victim of a terrorist attack involving chemical or biological weapons within the next few years, because of the spread of these deadly systems among maverick states.

British intelligence sources said they believed that, although many countries were developing chemical and biological weapons, there was as yet no indication that states were prepared to pass on the expertise to sponsored terrorist groups.

However, the alleged involvement of former members of the Russian chemical weapons project in passing on key technology to Damascus — in breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention, of which Russia is a signatory — has highlighted the increasing danger posed by these systems.

Moscow's capability to develop sophisticated chemical and biological agents and to "weaponise" them, using shells, bombs and ballistic missiles, was first revealed in 1989 by Vladimir Pasechnik, a Russian defector who has settled in Britain.

It is believed that, in unofficial exchanges with senior former Russian experts, Syria has acquired the technology for dispersing chemical agents, including VX nerve gas, by means of bombs from aircraft and from surface-to-surface missile warheads. Syrian Scud C ballistic missiles with a range of 300 miles are understood to have been adapted to disperse VX gas.

☐ Anaheim: Itemising the genes in potential biological weapons such as anthrax or bubonic plague could prevent extremists from ever using them against the United States, experts told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

They called for a kind of bio-terrorism genome project, similar to the Human Genome Project in which scientists are racing to map out every gene in the human body. *(Reuters)*

Arabs reject Iraqi call

Cairo: Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, stormed out of an Arab meeting here yesterday after Arab foreign ministers failed to meet Baghdad's call for a unilateral lifting of UN sanctions, the Iraqi delegation said.

"The final communiqué is a cover-up for maintaining forever the UN embargo," Nabil Najm, for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, said. "This statement is a mockery," Mr Najm told reporters at the Arab League headquarters where the foreign ministers and representatives of the 22-member pan-Arab organisation met.

Iraq wanted the ministers unilaterally to lift the sanctions imposed after the Kuwait invasion. *(AFP)*



Yitzhak Mordechai, left, confers with Amnon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday

Netanyahu drops defence chief

Dina Shiloh writes on the split that has shocked Israelis

YITZHAK MORDECHAI, the Israeli Defence Minister and one of the nation's most popular politicians, has been sacked by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister. The dismissal comes after speculation in which Mr Mordechai hinted he was leaving the Likud Party.

He had failed to register as a Likud candidate for the May 17 elections by last Friday's party deadline. Instead, he met leaders of a new centrist party in a Tel Aviv café. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, a former military Chief of Staff touted as leader of the new party, said he would step down for Mr Mordechai. But before Mr Mordechai could announce his decision to leave Likud, Mr Netanyahu dropped him.

The Prime Minister, however, is taking a gamble, for without Mr Mordechai in his team Mr Netanyahu's electoral chances are considerably reduced. Meir Sheetrit, the Likud whip, admitted: "His departure is a blow ... Of course, he's an electoral asset to the Likud."

The split led to an immediate display of hostility between Mr Mordechai and Mr Netanyahu, shocking Israelis. Flanked by his Cabinet, Mr Netanyahu read out the letter to a press conference on Saturday night. In it the Prime Minister accused Mr Mordechai of "conducting negotiations with the Opposition in order to guarantee you will continue to be Defence Minister — at the same time you ask me to guarantee your position as Defence Minister. I do not think it is moral."

Mr Mordechai called Mr Netanyahu "a petty politician who spreads lies" moments after he had received the letter. "I'm sorry to say that at the head of the Government is a man who I do not believe is worthy of the job, worthy of my trust, or worthy of the trust of the people of Israel," he said.

By humiliating Mr Mordechai, the Prime Minister has certainly made himself a powerful enemy. Mr Mordechai is a former major-general in a country where a military career is often the precursor of a glittering political career. Like Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister, Mr Mordechai is a warrior turned peace-maker.

Moi adds voice to pleas for peace in Horn of Africa

From Robin Lodge in Nairobi

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya, eager to boost his status as a leading statesman of the region, flew to the Eritrean capital, Asmara, yesterday in a bid to avert a renewed confrontation between Eritrea and Ethiopia over a disputed border zone.

Mr Moi left Nairobi only a day after returning home from an East African summit in Arusha, Tanzania, which agreed to promote regional co-operation and to suspend sanctions imposed in July 1996 against Burundi after a military coup which brought the present Tutsi-led Government to power.

The summit, which was also attended by leaders from Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, was seen as a major step in restoring peace to a turbulent region. The United Nations World Food Programme welcomed the suspension of sanctions against Burundi. Nearly a quarter of a million Burundians depend on emergency food assistance from the WFP.

President Moi was expected to urge President Afewerki of Eritrea to exercise restraint and avoid a repeat of the fighting which broke out last year, leaving hundreds dead.

Last week the UN Security Council expressed its concern over the collapse of recent mediation efforts by the Organisation of African Unity and the build-up of troops and artillery on both sides of the 600-mile border between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Relations between the two Horn of Africa countries have remained uneasy since Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after a long war.

هكذا من الأصل

Bad become mad as Vatican reformers drive Satan out

The Prince of Darkness is being cast in a new light in time for the millennium, Richard Owen writes

The Vatican, which ten days ago decreed that God was not to be imagined as "an old man with a white beard", will this week seek to recast the image of Satan, arguing that the Church needs a "more subtle and sophisticated" definition of evil for the millennium.

A Vatican commission of theologians and liturgical experts has revised long-standing 17th-century rituals governing exorcism, or the casting out of devils. A new formula drops references to Satan, or the Devil, as the embodiment of evil, in favour of definitions more compatible with modern concepts of "psychological disturbance".

"In revising the form of words for exorcism, we have re-thought the nature of the evil we are trying to root out," one member of the commission said. Officials said the Church was not revising "scriptural references" to the Devil or suggesting that people should cease believing in "the Evil One". But priests conducting exorcisms should deal with evil as a force "lurking within all individuals" rather than as a force, traditionally embodied as Satan, threatening human beings from without.

Definitions of "demonic possession" and the rituals for dealing with it have largely remained unaltered since Pope Paul V (1605-1621) issued the *Rituale Romanum* in 1614. It was revised under Leo XIII (1878-1903) but not substantially changed.

Monsignor Corrado Balducci, the Vatican's chief exorcist, said the Church had to adapt to modern thinking and "be more careful in distinguishing between possession by evil spirits and what are more commonly called psychiatric disturbances".

He added: "We are changing the rules for the millennium as part of the continuing process of liturgical reform which followed the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s."

The new definition will be presented tomorrow by Cardinal Jorge Arturo Medina Esteves, Prefect of the Congregation for the Divine Cult and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

According to Vatican officials, under the new rituals priests will be encouraged not to refer any longer to the Prince of Darkness, the Accursed Dragon, the Foul Spirit, the Satanic Power or the Master of Deceit. Instead the formulas refer more vaguely to "the cause of evil". They also introduce for the first time an appeal to the Virgin Mary to help to combat evil in an "afflicted individual", a reflection of Pope John Paul II's personal commitment to the Marian cult.

Both Old and New Testaments refer to Beelzebub, the Evil One, or Satan, with the Devil often depicted as Lucifer, a rebel angel expelled from Heaven, a theme taken up in Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. The Revelation of St John (12.7) describes "war in Heaven between the angels" (led by Michael) and "the Dragon, that ancient serpent who led the whole world astray whose name is the Devil, or Satan".

Jesus cast out demons in several famous New Testament passages, and St Mark (1.13) and St Matthew (4.1-11) both record that Jesus was "tempted by Satan" during his 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness.

But some modern theologians regard the depiction of Satan as a reptilian beast with cloven hooves, wings and a tail, as a medieval invention, and prefer St Augustine's definition of evil as "the absence of good".

According to Signor Balducci, every Roman Catholic diocese is supposed to have at least one priest qualified in exorcism. Under the rituals currently in force, the priest lays his hands on the head of the possessed person while reciting the words *exorcitio te*.

He then calls out *ex crucem Domini* while wrapping the hem of his stole round the neck of the possessed and keeping his right hand on his or her head. Exorcists say that the evil spirits emerge "sometimes a bit at a time, and sometimes in one big convulsion".

Father Gabriele Amorth, President of the International Association of Exorcists, said he had examined 40,000 alleged cases of demonic possession, and of the "small number" which turned out the be genuine he had successfully dealt with 130.

"There is no harm in carrying out an exorcism where it turns out to be unnecessary, whereas not to carry out an exorcism where it really is needed can be catastrophic," Father Amorth said.

Monsignor Balducci said that of every 1,000 people who turned to an exorcist for help, only "five or six" were in reality possessed by evil spirits. Thirty cases in a thousand qualified as "demonic obsession, infestation or disturbance". The rest were "in need of psychiatric help".

Leading article, page 21



Devil on a Tarot card

Lewinsky returns to Senate turmoil

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON



BOB PEARSON / AFP

Monica Lewinsky, escorted by aides and bodyguards, arrives back in Washington to face further questioning about her affair with the President

MONICA LEWINSKY, a baseball cap pulled low over her eyes, reluctantly flew to Washington from Los Angeles as President Clinton's Senate impeachment trial lurched into an unpredictable and highly contentious realm.

Democrats and Republicans were at each other's throats yesterday after the former White House trainee was forced to return to the capital to be questioned again about her affair with Mr Clinton. Democrats said her treatment amounted to intimidation. To add to the turmoil, Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said he would send written questions to Mr Clinton today to clear up "inconsistencies in his testimony". White House lawyers said they, not Mr Clinton, would answer.

Both sides poured out their anger on the Sunday talk shows and the ill feelings are likely to be aired again today when the Senate is due to take up two crucial votes. One is a motion to dismiss the perjury and obstruction of justice charges against Mr Clinton. It was proposed by Robert Byrd, the crusty but widely respected Democrat who is a stickler for Senate procedures.

He will argue that it is time to recognise that the requisite 67 votes needed to convict — two thirds of the 100 Senators — are simply not there and it is time to move on. The Byrd motion could pass with a majority vote of 51 senators or more, but there are only 45 Democrats and there was no sign yesterday that six Republicans were prepared to break party ranks.

The second vote will be on whether to proceed with the trial by calling witnesses. The use of witnesses could extend the proceedings by weeks, although Mr Lott insists that there would be stringent curbs on cross-examination.

Democrats hope they can round up Republican support against witnesses, a big step towards bringing the trial to a speedy conclusion with a third vote to convict or acquit. No one was sure that this could happen, but there are Republicans who are worried that the trial is harming the party's popularity.

Ms Lewinsky flew to Washington on the orders of a federal judge after she refused the request by Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, for a voluntary interview, on her lawyers' advice. Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, used his muscle on the Republican side, arguing successfully to Judge Norma Holloway that Ms Lewinsky was obliged to make herself available under his deal giving her immunity from prosecution.

The re-emergence of Mr Starr infuriated Democrats, who said it confirmed their view that he was no more than a Republican "agent" on a witch-hunt against the President. Mr Starr insisted that he was complying with the statute covering his appointment.

In talking to Ms Lewinsky, Republican prosecutors will want to go over several key topics. One is her assertion that Mr Clinton was not a passive partner to oral sex, but fondled her sexually on nine occasions. They will also ask her whether there was a plot to cover up the retrieval of his gifts to her and efforts to find her a job away from Washington.

Pontiff attacks the Right

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AT A gathering of Roman Catholic bishops from North and South America in Mexico at the weekend, the Pope offered a new, sharper definition of the Church's social doctrine in what he called a "broken world".

His message on this, his fourth visit to Mexico, was in marked contrast to his first visit 20 years ago, when he spoke out against the left-wing tendency in the Latin American Church dubbed "liberation theology".

Now that the threat of Communism is all but erased, the pontiff has turned his attention to the right-wing excesses of capitalism and free market economics, giving a warning that its negative side effects have brought only greater unemployment and poverty.

In a 24-page Apostolic Exhortation, the Pope outlined his latest guidelines to the bishops on everything from parish work to combating human rights abuses and poverty. Speaking at a Mass for Mexico's patron saint, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Pope said that as the world enters a new millennium "we must stir up a new springtime of holiness".

12 killed in KwaZulu violence

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE threat of severe political violence in South Africa before its second democratic election in a few months loomed yesterday. Gunfire and arson erupted around Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal after the murders of 12 people, including a political leader.

The violence caused President Mandela to postpone a visit to Uganda this week, and 1,000 police and troops were rushed to the area as George Fivaz, the Police Commissioner, predicted that the violence could escalate.

Sifiso Nkabinde, secretary-general of the United Democratic Movement (UDM) and a self-confessed warlord, died in a hail of bullets fired at his car in Richmond on Saturday.

Twelve hours later, in what police said was a revenge attack, 11 people were shot dead and nine wounded by gunmen who attacked mourners at a funeral vigil in an African National Congress-dominated township.

Yesterday houses were set ablaze in a UDM-controlled area, and an ANC delegation that had rushed to Richmond came under fire

At least 15,000 people have been killed in political violence in KwaZulu-Natal since the mid-1980s, mainly in battles between supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party. Nkabinde, 38, was the ANC's leading warlord in Richmond but was expelled from the party in 1997.

☐ Luanda: Unita rebels said Angola was back in an all-out war and the Government's Cuban allies were sending thousands of troops. *(Reuters)*

Hunt for killers of missionary

Delhi: Police launched a hunt last night for a Hindu militant in eastern India after arresting 47 other suspects over the murder of an Australian missionary and his two sons.

The police announced a reward of 25,000 rupees (£380) for the arrest of Dara Singh, who allegedly led the mob that burnt to death Graham Stewart Staines, 58, and his sons aged seven and ten. Mr Staines, who worked with lepers, and his sons, Philip and Timothy, were killed when a mob set fire to the car in which they were sleeping, in the eastern state of Orissa.

It was the worst anti-Christian attack in the past year in India, during which the Christian minority has suffered more than 100 assaults at the hands of Hindu militants. A resident of India for 34 years, Mr Staines headed the Evangelical Missionary Society in the town of Baripada, populated by tribal people. *(AFP)*



Calcutta protesters rally yesterday over killings

PARIS COUTURE SUMMER '99


CHRISTIAN LACROIX


JOSEPHUS THIMISTER

Naked truth about grooming

FASHION DIARY

By Lisa Armstrong

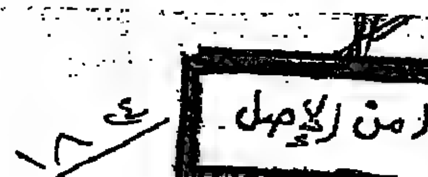
AMID the frantic couture schedule (not the shows but the endless dinners and parties), Chanel hit on a truly inspired piece of corporate entertaining. Taking over the Turkish baths in a former Parisian mosque, they invited the international fashion press for an evening of body scrubs, steam baths, massage — and very little clothing.

Even though everyone pretended not to look, this was quite an eye-opener — as you might imagine — and yet another insight into national characteristics. The first to be scrubbed down, first to immerse themselves in the freezing plunge-pool were the Germans; then came the toned, glossy-haired Americans; the naturally dainty French; and the Brits, clinging on to their towelling robes for dear life because they hadn't made it to the waxers. One who had made it claimed that it was the first time her legs had ever been deforested. She fretted that her husband, who preferred her in her natural state, might divorce her, citing Chanel as co-respondent. It's hard to imagine an American having quite the same problems, which goes to show that while fashion has become international, when it comes to grooming, we are still the products of geography.

■ LONDON and New York aren't the only cities with boutiques that take the fashion-as-art concept seriously. Paris, though surprisingly slow to catch on to the idea given its intellectual leanings, opened Colette two years ago on the Faubourg Saint Honoré and, lo and behold, the handbag-on-a-plinth, desert-boots-in-a-glass-case style of shopping arrived with a vengeance. So much so that a few months ago Ramdanet, Antoine and Artus, three cheeky, skateboarding twentysomethings, opened an antidote. L'Epicerie (The Grocery), at 30 Rue du Temple in the Marais, takes a deliberately irreverent, chaotic approach to retailing, although its merchandise is nothing if not upscale.

Marc Jacobs was so taken with the concept that he offered to design an accessory for the boutique and has invited the trio to stay at his New York apartment for the ready-to-wear collections next month.

L'Epicerie was such a success that it was forced to close because it ran out of stock. The new merchandise will be in camouflage print, from L'Epicerie's own streetwear label to the limited-series items made exclusively for the shop by names such as Jeremy Scott, Eric Halley and, of course, a clutch of Dutch designers. At this rate Marks & Spencer won't have to do a thing to the design of its stores; the fashion pendulum will decree that drab fittings and impenetrable layouts are the last word in retail chic.



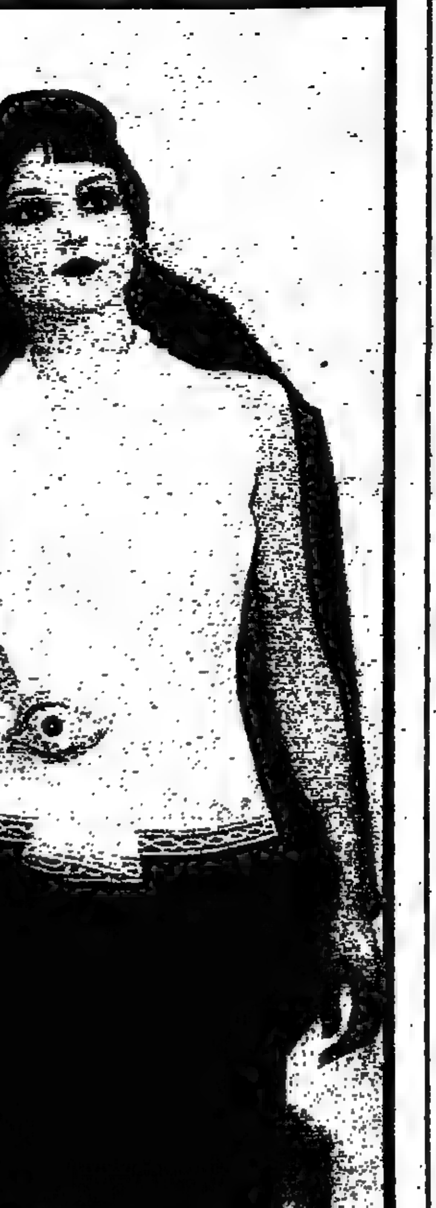
PARIS COUTURE SUMMER '99

Who pays £10,000 for a suit?

SIMON WALKER


GIVENCHY


JEAN PAUL GAULTIER



CHRISTIAN DIOR

TOP NAMES


Christian Lacroix

Donatella Versace

Josephus Thimister

Jean Paul Gaultier


Karl Lagerfeld

The real couture customers do not get discounts and stay away from the catwalks



Catherine Zeta Jones and Liv Tyler seemed to be enjoying themselves at Versace, although it's not always easy to tell. Hollywood's female celebrities have such preternaturally bright smiles and such unnaturally perfect posture (the better to display those darling designer donations) that they often look as though their scalps are being permanently winched upwards by invisible pulleys.

But are they bona fide customers? Probably not, even though the Oscars have replaced society balls as the only occasion to wear any of these clothes, and despite the fact that Donatella Versace is on a mission to make couture appeal to a younger set — with geometric shapes in aggressively modern fabrics. Naomi Campbell, encased in a strapless wool dress pierced with metal shards that clinked on to the catwalk every time she turned energetically, looked as though she had been struck by lightning. At the other end of the scale, it's hard to imagine who goes to the more established couturiers for a £10,000 day suit. Chanel and Valentino did their best work for night (Chanel's matt sequined tops and chiffon columns were beautiful) and stumbled with awkward daywear: Chanel with lumpy harem trousers and Valentino with batwing-sleeved, wide tops and oddly proportioned flared skirts.

But when the clothes are right, go they do, although this being a world of *trompe-l'oeils* and exquisite artifice, things are rarely as they seem. Prices, never openly discussed with the press, fluctuate dramatically. If a client is young, pretty and famous —and can fit into the couture samples — she could snap up quite a bargain.

If she's the wife of a South American dictator, she might find French inflation running rampant and fabric running out. The women sitting in the front rows are frequently there just for the cameras. The real customers are often tucked up in Riyadh. They prefer to buy via video and do not get discounts. They don't even need to fly in for fittings. Many regulars have their measurements encrypted at their favourite houses in the form of a seamstresses's mannequin.

To track down the lesser-spotted couture client (an endangered species if ever there was one), it is sometimes necessary to stray from the beaten track of the catwalk.

At a small, by these standards, *private gathering in honour* of Emanuel Ungaro last week, for instance, around 80 faithful couture customers were invited for supper — and a chance to show off their made-to-measure lace cocktail dresses. And very pretty they all looked, too: not ostentatious, not geriatric, not especially vacuous — not any of the things one might imagine a couture customer to be.

> Take out shares in huge ornate earrings right now

According to Ungaro's wife, Laura, the house recently picked up 20 new customers — several of whom are Russian. Quite a statistic at a time when the world is supposedly tightening its belt. They would have found plenty to please at his show that day, where the models padded around on rose petals in layers of gauzy chiffon, coloured, lacy peasant skirts and cropped tops, and the audience almost passed out from the attar of roses that had been hosed over the place.

At Givenchy, a house insider estimates that Alexander McQueen has attracted around 50 or 60 clients — women who return season after season for that dominatrix tailoring (this season it got a 1950s twist). One husband, accompanying his wife to a fitting there, responded to her lament that she had nowhere to wear the ballgown he had selected for her by promising to throw the dress a lavish party.

Jean Paul Gaultier has been picking up clients, too, since he gave up his job as co-presenter of *Eurotrash*, the Channel 4 series whose main contribution to modern culture is to bring the silicone implants of various porn stars to the attention of Britain. He has developed the anorak's delight in couture details, from the pleating that wound and twisted its way round the bodies to the faultless tailoring of the jaunty, mannish trouser suits that could have swaggered off the catwalk into many a stylish woman's wardrobe.

Even the evening wear, despite Moorish styling (a theme that popped up at Valentino and Ungaro: take out shares in huge ornate earrings now), was restrained. Here, a black jersey column with slinky cut-outs; there, a pale gold mousseline empire-line dress with a beaded bustier, worn over slim trousers. Best not to dwell on the jokey pieces — you can take the *terrible* out of the *enfant*, but you cannot always take the *enfant* out of the *terrible*.

That couture clients still exist at all makes it difficult to know on what basis to judge the clothes. On one hand, couture is meant to be the fashion designer's equivalent of Rachmaninov's Third — incredible workmanship gets the workout of its life and arcane techniques get tossed around like *rose petals*.

Galliano's theme at Dior was Surrealism; there were wonderful back-to-front Prince of Wales trouser suits and evening gowns with Cocteau figures etched on them, but thematic clothes rarely work outside their context.

The best pieces were the simplest: a black silk column suspended from a diamond choker, a Wallis Simpson calf-length silk skirt and silk shell top with a sash caught in a clasp that had been fashioned into a Dali-esque eye.

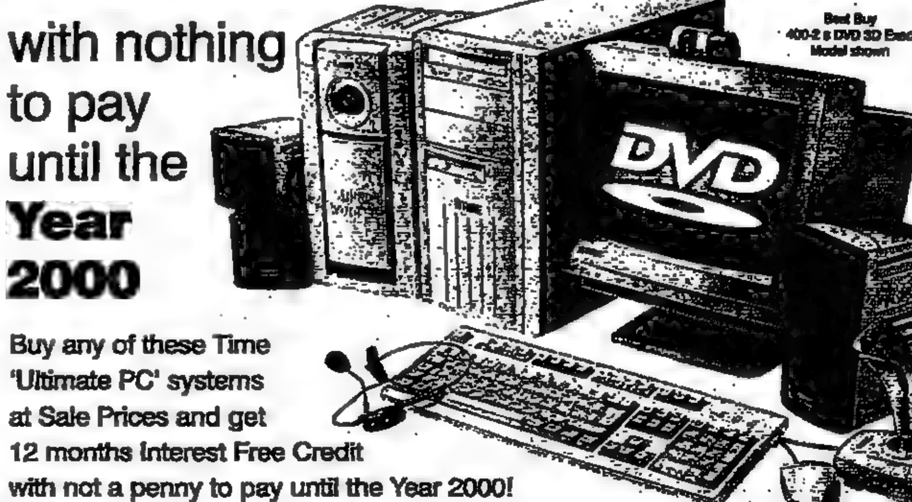
If you are judging by virtuoso displays, Christian Lacroix produced *the* collection of last week: a ravishing display of silk and tulle that had been whipped into extraordinarily lovely, vaguely 18th-century evening wear that looked as fresh and carefree as a baby's smile.

Even the enormous violet silk ballgown, caught up in a side bow, with tiny buttons down the back and a corsage of 18th-century emerald flowers, looked light as sea mist, and that's some kind of genius.

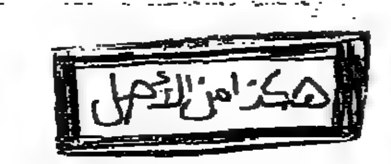
But even couture clients reject some outfits on the ground that there isn't a place, apart from a Michael Jackson video, where they would look appropriate. Josephus Thimister, a Dutch designer with the aura of a disapproving accountant, is offering an alternative vision. His architectural shapes in *eau-de-Nil* python, parachute silk or tulle-enveloped canvas were starkly poetic and achieved the hitherto impossible: they made couture look hip. Just as things were looking very good fashionwise for the Dutch, along come the Antwerp two, aka Viktor and Rolf, and their Concept. Last season's concept was post-atomic holocaust chic, which roughly translated into clothes that fitted over enormous neck pillows and gave all the models hunches. I wasn't crazy about the effect, but they smiled sweetly when I interviewed them and said that deformities were a speciality and Madonna liked them, so I didn't have the heart to argue.

The concept this time was Showing Your Collection in the Dark. This is so silly that it needs no further comment, except to say that it was also boring once you got past the idea that everything was in black and white and the infra-red lighting made the white bits jump out.

Viktor and Rolf's speciality is tailoring — cue tuxedos with white skeleton bones picked out on them, Victorian coat dresses, and those clerical frock coats that seem to crop up in every costume drama ever made. Several thousand outfits later when you thought things couldn't get any worse, they did: the lights went on and they ran through the entire show again. Not surprisingly, Catherine and Liv didn't show up. But Viktor and Rolf do have customers galore, apparently. It is just that most of them happen to be museums.







Taking the taste for adventure to new heights

PETER NICHOLLS


Role model: Richard Branson's *Virgin Global Challenger*

The craze for experiencing extreme sporting thrills is a growing and worrying one, says **Celia Brayfield**

It is the time of year when brochures on my doormat tempt me to go ballooning in Cappadocia and friends announce that they're going glacier skiing. Nobody *just lies on a beach* any *more.* Smart hedonism means seeking out extreme experiences.

The smart hedonists have smart role models such as the balloonist Richard Branson and the polar explorer Ranulph Fiennes. These *high-profile adventurers inspire* increasing numbers of couch potatoes to set out in search of similar thrills.

For those with the temperament for it, taking risks is more than fun, sexy and exciting — it's essential. *Some people don't really feel* alive unless they get the chance to look death in the face. I'm not one of these. I asked a psychotherapist why and she said: "Because you have got a life," meaning creative fulfilment through family, art and career. The expanding population of under-40s without such satisfactions provides the market for the new extreme leisure industry.

This market could stand some education. In our controlled lives the most daring thing most of us do is hit the new euro key on the computer. We never meet nature on a daily basis. The Prince of Wales once called Ranulph Fiennes "*mad but marvellous*". I suspect that most people only heard the second adjective. Nor do the less privileged appreciate that their role models take their risks with the benefit of the best training and back-up money can buy.

Sadly, recent weeks have brought tragic and abundant proof that ordinary people doing ordinary things no longer know *Mother Nature* well enough to give her the respect she deserves. Four climbers were killed by an avalanche near Ben Nevis and a boy of 11 died after trying out his new fishing rod on a trip in the Bristol Channel.

In both cases the warnings of weather forecasters were ignored. Recently, when gale-force winds were predicted, 70 amateur sailors were rescued off the coast of Essex alone.

And some people never learn. Sarah Woodroffe, who fell 800 feet from a mountain in Glencoe and broke her neck, left hospital *last week.* She announced that she would be returning to mountaineering. "It was like being on a rollercoaster when you lose your stomach," she said of the fall.

I could cite many more tragedies, *which suggest* that people who choose extreme sports to spice up their lives are doing so without being able to calculate the risks. Within my own circle of friends, one paraglided to death *and another* gave up the sport after hitting a thermal which nearly took him to the stratosphere.

In contrast to this tragic amateurism, I remember interviewing Lord Hunt, the leader of the Everest expedition. Instead of gung-ho I met a *surprisingly quiet* hero. "*Did you ever think* of giving up?" I asked. "Every morning," he admitted, explaining that it was the duty of an expedition leader to calculate the risk of losing lives.

The only people concerned about our increasing *appetite* for risk are insurers, whose statistics *show* the associated death claims rising year-on-year at about 10 per cent. Maybe it's time the mad-but-marvellous squad used their influence to promote adventure education for people who *share* their courage *but not* their advantages.

PAUL COUSANS

Why I stay with the man who beat me

Arabella Melville, an academic, claims she has stopped her partner being violent, says **Penny Wark**


Arabella Melville and Colin Johnson: "I always had the fear that if he wasn't in control he could do some really serious damage to me. I really believed he was capable of killing me"

The damage, says Arabella Melville, was "absolutely minimal". *That is how* she describes 15 years of abuse by Colin Johnson, the man she loves. She flexes her right hand.

"One slightly damaged finger joint," *she says* unwillingly. "That finger has straightened out and works normally. For *me*, minimal." For much of *those* 15 years she was so *frightened of Johnson that she* believed he could kill her, yet now, she seems to be excusing him. "It was never a continuous thing that lasted for a long time. It was lashing out. It *wasn't considered.*"

Two things are remarkable about Melville's story. One is that 25 years after she met Johnson, she still adores him and they *still live together;* the *other* is that it is now five years since Johnson hit her. This is not because he sought change, but because Melville came to *believe that she could alter his behaviour. By her own* analysis, she has, and this is the subject of her new book, *Difficult Men: strategies for women who choose not to leave.*

Her theory is controversial, straddling both the central feminist mantra about taking power, and relying on the contradictory premise that *women should take responsibility* for their partner's bad habits. Change, she maintains, is always possible. By refusing to *tolerate Johnson's violent* behaviour, and temporarily walking away when she sees it coming, she has taken control, she argues. One imagines this is not quite what the Home Office Minister Paul Boateng had in mind last week when, in response to a report that nearly one in 20 Britons had suffered domestic violence, he called for "*a basic shift in attitude . . .* towards the day when such conduct is universally recognised as reprehensible".

Melville, the product of a solid middle-class upbringing in *Birmingham, is a gentle,* friendly woman of 50. An academic based at York University, she writes guidance on cancer services for the NHS, but *her private life is grounded in* Porthmadog where she lives with Johnson, a diabetic who is becoming progressively ill. Her appearance is neat, though when we meet in *London it rapidly becomes clear* that her confidence is less easily controlled.

She was 26 when she met *Johnson,* and already rebelling against her background. Unhappy about the use of animals in her field of experimental psychology, she had given up academic life and become a *nude model.* Through this she met *Gerald Kingsland, the anti-hero of Castaway fame,* and then his friend, Johnson. "Colin was wild and attractive, but most important was the intellectual philosophical thing: *thinking things through* and not stopping at some taboo. He has always been totally excessive," she says.

He is also nine years her senior and was then a confident businessman. The abuse started gradually, though she claims not to remember when he first hit her. "His ex-wife used to say, *has he started hitting you yet?* I recognised that Colin had reacted violently but I didn't imagine I could be the victim of it.

"Things started going downhill when he went from rich to penniless and lost confidence. *The outbursts of anger* and frustration became more frequent. It wasn't focused on me, I just happened to be there. I remember trying to crawl *under the sofa to hide* because I was so afraid. He didn't seem to see that.

"He was abusive verbally very frequently, daily, during *the middle period of our relationship,* after the first five years. If it's constant, it's undermining, but the actual physical violence was rare, once a year. There is also the smashing of things, the *throwing* of bottles against the wall. That is maybe not a danger to you but *it reminds you,* and *it happened* a lot. If things were going well, there would be a lot more mutual respect but if we had *failed* at setting up a project, he became very obnoxious.

"I think he didn't feel he was in control and all this time he's been trying to control me because he's *afraid of me getting* away. I always had the fear that if he wasn't in control he could do some really serious damage to me. I really believed he was capable of *killing me* but he wouldn't survive long after that because there's no *doubt* that he loves *me deeply.*" *She is more* graphic in a short section of her book: "He held me by the hair to make sure he had my full attention as he shouted. It hurt. I *told him it hurt.* He *didn't* listen or didn't hear. I tried to pull his hands away. Failing, I thumped his hand with a torch I was *holding.* That was a bad *mistake.*

> His ex-wife said 'has *he started* hitting you?'

"He snatched the torch and started hitting me with it. I held up my hands to protect my face. *Smash. Smash.* My hand took the full force of the blows. The torch *broke. I ran away, bruised and crying.*"

But she stayed. Why? Was she frightened of who else she might meet? She had after all been bullied at school and was later dominated by the man *she married,* who eroded her confidence by criticising her.

"I wasn't frightened of being on my own, it was entirely *emotional. Frequently I got to* the point of being so wretched that I would think about gathering my things. Then Colin would turn and the person you love reappears and I would *think.* I love him, and I do, and I always have, but I love the intelligent person, the *sexy person, the exuberant* and *outgoing* and witty person. Nobody else has been able to make me laugh as consistently as he does. The things I love about Colin were *always too strong* for me to go." She shakes her head and laughs.

The turning point came during a course of counselling she had *undertaken* in the hope of changing her relationship with Johnson. When she finally acknowledged his violent outbursts, her counsellor encouraged her to see that Melville's own *defensiveness* — her inability to talk, hiding her face, crying — provoked Johnson into seeing her as the object of his frustration. The *crucial point was that as her* failure to stand up for herself made Johnson's violence more probable, it might be possible to reduce the probability of violence by *behaving differently.*

"It never happened after that," says Melville. "It was like the lights coming on. After that session I talked to Colin *about* the violence and the impact on me. I'd never before that been able to explain clearly to *him* how destructive it *was. As soon as he* started to behave in a way I recognised as *threatening* or abusive, insulting me, I started saying, sorry, *I'm not* putting up with *this.* I would leave the room, go to *my own room,* leave the house if necessary. He would *try to stop me leaving* but I *would do that very early in the* process before he was really out of control. If you do that with total regularity that abusive behaviour starts to *become less common.*

"One of the terrible mistakes women make is to think that if they are better, more attractive, more exciting, maybe he *would* stop getting angry with them. *They reward him* for his behaviour and that is playing into his hands. My approach involves the woman enhancing her own power."

There are several difficulties with Melville's theory. One is that *what works for someone who is mid*dle class and articulate is not necessarily a good ploy for someone without her advantages. More profoundly, she *seems to be encouraging* women associated with difficult men to take responsibility for their unpleasantness. How many women have started relationships with unreliable men in the hope that they could change them, only to realise, much later, that they could not? The more conventional view *is that* a *woman's* responsibility is to herself, and that means leaving a violent man.

Indeed, as Melville admits, although Johnson *has* not hit her during the past five years — *she insists she is no longer frightened of him,* and *it was* his suggestion that she wrote openly rather than anonymously about their difficulties — his potential for abuse does not seem to have vanished completely. "He *still insults* me sometimes because to him it's a joke," says Melville lightly. "Or so he says."

The balance of their relation*ship has also been changed* by his illness and his increasing dependence on her. What makes her so certain that she can help other women?

"*Relationships* are in a dymnamic balance and *if one part* changes, inevitably the other part will change," she replies. "When you see a pattern of fear and the reaction to it, you know it's *not going to be just* true for yourself. Colin wasn't willing to go to a therapist and that was one of the reasons for the awful frustration that I felt. I *saw it* as *his* problem and felt powerless until I realised that I wasn't. It doesn't have to be your problem for you to set about solving it."

If the *man you love* also loves you, shouldn't he want to solve it too?

"Yes," she says quietly. *There* is a long pause. "I don't really have an answer to that."

● *Difficult Men, published by Vermilion on February 4, £8.99*
● *Refuge 24-hour crisis line 0990 995443*



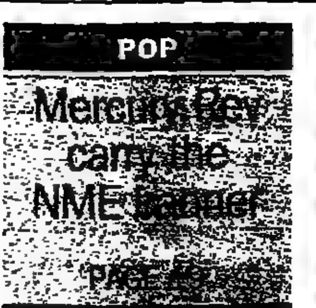


VISUAL ART

THE TIMES

ARTS

POP





Making drama out of the truth

The problem with transforming journals into plays is evident. Where is the dramatic conflict, where the tension to be found in writings which tend to move forward plotlessly, shapelessly and all too chronologically? And the problem is still more acute if the denouement is predictable, as is the case with the two diary-dramas that have just opened in London. We can hardly be astonished when Marie Bashkirtseff, protagonist of **Brief Candle** (New End, NW3), dies at 24, because a narrator in the splendidly robust form of Denis Quilley has told us at the beginning that she will do precisely that. It is much the same with the multiple mortalities in Mick Gordon's **Intimate Death** (the Gate, W11).

Does this matter? In the case of *Brief Candle*, I fear so. In that of *Intimate Death*, which comes to W11 via workshops at the National, not too much. At the start Gordon's staging of the journals of the Paris psychologist Marie de Hennezel made me feel so got-at that all thoughts of shape and plot evaporated. But by the end I had to admit that Gordon had created a piece as sensitive and absorbing as Peter Brook's somewhat similar series of case-studies, *The Man Who*.

De Hennezel works in a hospice, and at first struck me as taking an offputting relish in her job. It is not that she is morbid or ghoulish, just that she sounds as if she is committing that most un-English of sins, invasion of privacy. How would you like to breathe your last in the company of a woman for whom it is "an unforgettable opportunity to experience true intimacy"? I listened to Gillian Barge's formidable Marie gravely rabbiting on about death being "our crowning moment", a sweet and tender event that "binds me to every other human being" and "sends me back to the essential questions of life"; and felt that, were I their object, I would ensure that my last words were "blast your impertinence".

But gradually I realised that the problem was not the content but the structure. Instead of hammering us with all this editorialising before showing us any of the human material from which it is derived, Gordon should have interspersed it with the scenes that occur in and round the hospital bed ominously

THEATRE

standing stage-centre. If Marie talked of "integrating death with life" and so on between encounters with her patients, she would gain in credibility, sympathy and trust — and the evening in variety.

It takes ti..., too much time, to see that she handles the dying and their relatives wisely. An Aids patient, trapped in guilty, angry silence, belatedly realises his homophobic father loves him and his mother wants to hold his hand. A cancerous woman, distraught yet oddly relieved to find she isn't in a convalescent home, speaks of her husband, God and the blue, blue sky with new candour. A mother, herself a doctor, gives her comatose daughter the blessing that somewhere deep inside her seems to become permission to let go.

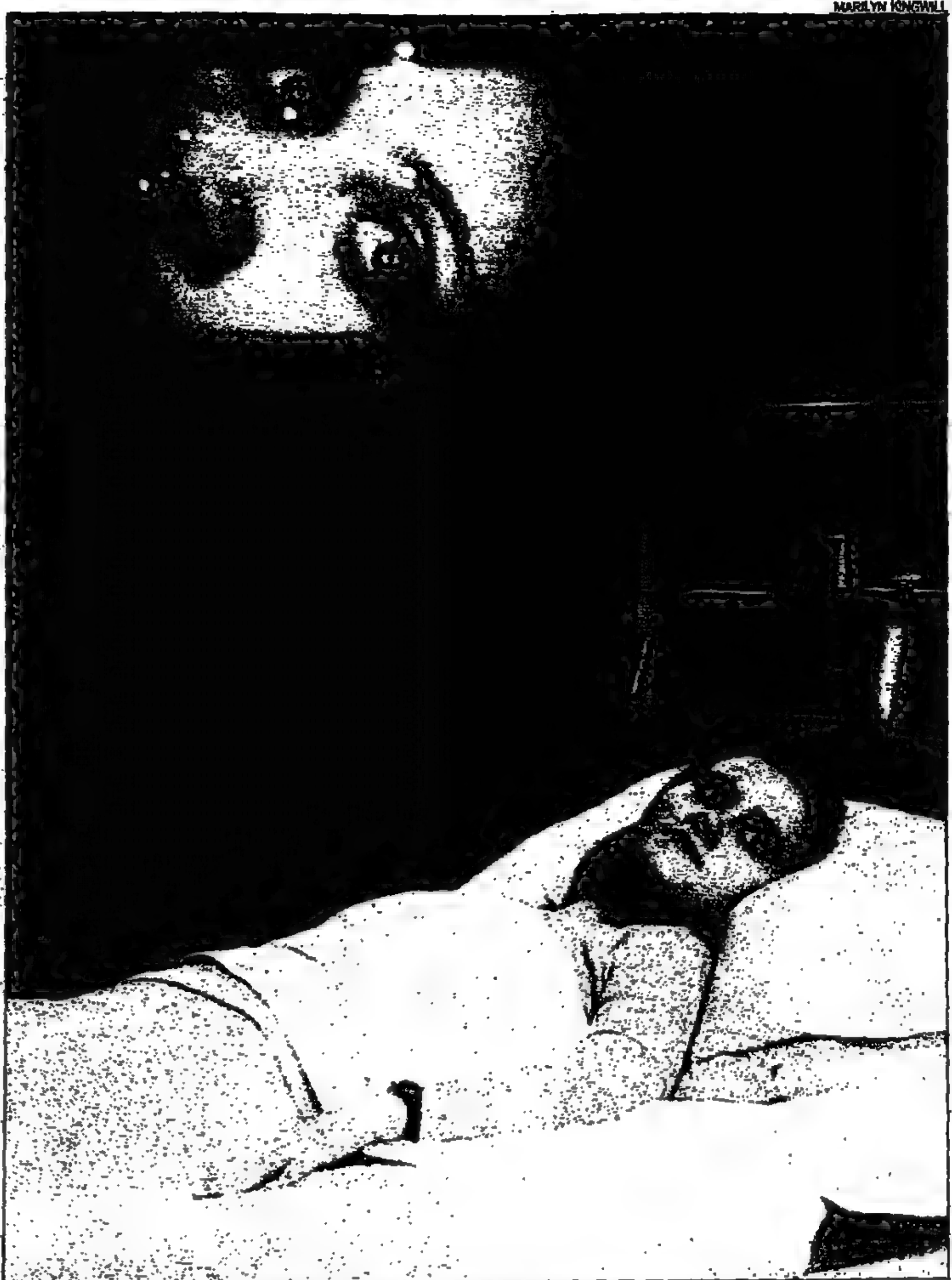
Amelda Brown, Nina Conti, Iain Fraser, Michael Hadley and Nicholas Tizzard, each signalling the moment of death by clambering from bed and quietly exiting, are equally impressive as terminal cases whose afflictions range from cerebral degeneration to paralysis in everything but the eyelids and a single finger. Finally a drug addict, physically destroyed by a wild life, drinks champagne with her prostitute mother and, murmuring "I want to die", calmly pulls out the oxygen tubes that are allowing her to breathe. If Barge's Marie had told us at the evening's start that this was the most enviable and "beautiful" death she could recall, I might have been sick. By then I believed her — and was moved.

Brief Candle, though well staged by Stella Quilley, is a more conventional example of diary-drama. Celia White is another Marie, Marie Bashkirtseff, a Russian aristocrat whose all-round talents and energies were outrageously precocious but who found the fame she craved only when her journals were published after her death from TB in 1884. If Carlo Ardito's script is to be trusted — and it comes across as doggedly conscientious — she was warned off marrying a would-be priest by the Holy Father himself, had an amusing encounter with the King of Italy and an eccentric correspondence with Maupassant, and was winning prizes for her paintings when the Grim Reaper struck.

White, though lacking quite the electricity the role needs, is a most appealing Marie, and Quilley defies Old Father Time by playing everyone from a lovelorn lad to a canny, quavering Pope. But is the prodigy interesting enough or Ardito's evocation of her sufficiently imaginative to justify her resurrection on an English stage today? There I have my doubts.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

MARILYN KINGWILL



Nina Conti in *Intimate Death*, Mick Gordon's London staging of the journals of a Paris psychologist

An early night

DARTING between an assortment of old men, bold servants and rapscallions on the streets of Modena the following events occur: a girl twin, whose brother is supposed lost, loves a young nobleman and, in order to be near him, disguises herself as a boy and becomes his page; the nobleman thinks he loves another and uses the page to carry messages to this other lady, who promptly falls for the messenger.

Sounds familiar? Yes, this is the source of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, written 70 years earlier in Siena. The route travelled by the Lelia, Flamminio and Isabella of *Gli Ingannati* on their way to becoming Viola, Orsino and Olivia is a matter best left for scholars. Does the original hold the stage today?

The Deceived
Riverside Studios

Probably. The sexual shenanigans are far bolder than anything to be found in Shakespeare. Syphilis must have been ravaging Italy at the time but a jovial air of enjoyment runs through the play, and Christopher Cairns translates (I cannot say how literally) into lively colloquial talk.

Kenneth Rea has described in these pages the hazards a producer/director must overcome to mount a show of this sort, and these may account for the patchwork success of his production. The design applies the old street-with-doors format to the 1920s but then leaves the actors to walk about a bit, to bring some animation to a scene. This is all right when action is developing, as in Chrissie Cotterill's outwitting of a Spanish soldier on the erotic make (a funny Stephen Ventura), but areas where the past is being unfolded hang heavy. A brave endeavour, then, like plums in a pudding that hasn't quite cooked.

JEREMY KINGSTON

■ **VISUAL ART**
A link with Monet

ARTS

■ **GALA**
Opera North's showcase





■ DANCE

Pina Bausch brings her *innovatory* dance work *Viktor* to Sadler's Wells
OPENS: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



■ THEATRE

The comic talent of Frances de la Tour is put to use in *The Forest* at the National
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Next week



■ FILM

Writer's block plagues Joseph Fiennes as the Bard in *Shakespeare in Love*
RELEASED: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ MUSIC

Bernard Haitink conducts the eerie *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* at the Festival Hall
CONCERT: Saturday
REVIEW: Next week

GALLERIES: Nicolette Jones meets one of the last living links to the celebrated household and garden at Giverny

PAUL ROGERS



A life devoted to preserving the heritage of a genius: Jean-Marie Toulgouat in front of his step-great-grandfather's paintings at the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* show

High priest of the Monet cult

As the current Royal Academy *exhibition earns* Claude Monet yet more admiration, one man finds himself cast again in the role of Guardian of the Monet Heritage. He is Jean-Marie Toulgouat, who never met Monet but has more personal knowledge *of his world than most.*

Toulgouat spent his childhood visiting *Monet's house at Giverny.* It must have been an extraordinary household. His great-aunt, Blanche Hochede-Monet, was Monet's stepdaughter by his second *marriage* to Alice Hochede, who died in 1911. Blanche, moreover, was also Monet's daughter-in-law, wife of Monet's son Jean, who died in 1914. After this, *Blanche became Monet's housekeeper* and secretary until his death in 1926, and continued to occupy the celebrated house for the rest of her life.

Toulgouat — Monet's step-great-grandson — lived with his parents 150 metres from his great-aunt. His grandmother was Suzanne, another of Alice's six children by her first marriage, *who moved in with Monet* when Alice did. Suzanne died when Toulgouat's mother was only one year old, which prompted Monet to show considerable kindness to the little girl.

Toulgouat is not a blood relation, then, but journalists would like him to be. Indeed, one suggested fanciful*ly that he might* be Monet reincarnated, because he was born in 1927, nine months after Monet's death, and because he is also a painter who has described himself as "dependent on the goodwill of light on nature". This idea makes Toulgouat laugh and grimace, *with a hint of uneasiness:* "I am interested in Indian mysticism," *he admits, apparently in jest.*

Toulgouat visited his great-aunt almost daily when he was little, not least because she would give him chocolate. Nobody talked much about Monet to him then. "But we were completely in the environment of Monet. Nothing was changed, because Blanche didn't want to move *anything from how it was when Monet was alive.*"

Blanche preserved the furnishing and decoration, observed the household routine he had established, and continued to cook the food he liked. Toulgouat now finds himself the source of recipes for what Monet used to eat. Young Jean-Marie *played in the garden that Monet had* planted, and in a house that was full of pictures whose influence is still visible in Toulgouat's work.

He left Giverny when he was 20, and worked — because he could not make a living from his painting — as an architect and in garden design. It was only later, when he had married a Monet *historian* and was living in Paris, that he and his wife decided to return to live in the family house in Giverny, close to Monet's, embracing a connection that was both a privilege and also (when he feels it eclipses his own identity) a burden.

Together, in the 1970s, they *helped his uncle, James Butler,* to draw out the plans of the garden in Monet's day. With this assistance it was restored, after ten years of neglect by the French Academy (to whom Monet's other son Michel had left the house), with money from the Giverny Foundation in America and Lila Wallace *of Reader's Digest.*

The garden is not, Toulgouat confesses, quite as it was. It was, he thinks, more like the original when it was first restored — but little by little it has been enhanced for the public to ensure that there is colour all year round. *In Monet's day,* parts were sometimes not in bloom.

Much had been lost when the restoration began, but more could have been destroyed. Toulgouat recalls how, when he was 13 and France was occupied, Blanche wrote to the Nazi headquarters in Paris, pleading that the house be untouched. "Two days later, German officers arrived in a car — Blanche was a bit afraid — and *they said:* 'Madame, we got *your* letter. The house will be out of bounds'." A sign on the gate forbade German soldiers to enter. The restraint is remarkable, given Goering's reputation for appropriating pictures and the fact that Monet's collection included Cézanne, *Sisley,* Pissarro and Degas.

Monet was not the only influence on Toulgouat's painting. He was taught the basics of the art at seven by his grandfather, the American artist Theodore Butler. Blanche, who also painted, was a mentor, as was the American Joan Mitchell, who lived near by. What's more, Toulgouat's father (a poultry farmer) had Surrealist friends, and Giverny was always a mecca for artists.

Toulgouat studied painting in Nice, and at first his work was Cubist *and abstract, partly in reaction to the* (by then) unfashionable Impressionism. Now, just as he came home physically, he has come back to doing work that consciously refers to Monet, with perhaps the more brilliant palette of Matisse, but with a decorative style of his own. His work, which goes on show at the Francis Kyle Gallery *in London in May, is not Monet* imitation. But he still paints the garden and the lily pond.

Perhaps this is asking for trouble — for inevitable disappointment and unhelpful comparisons. But Toulgouat came back to the style, he says, through his love of nature. And as for the subject: perhaps Monet has made us all want to paint the lily pond.

Toulgouat used to own one of Monet's *paintings.* It was a *picture that* featured Blanche painting and his grandmother, Suzanne, reading. He sold it in order to go back to live at Giverny, and to give up his office work. "I sold in order to be a painter," he says. No doubt Monet would have understood.

● Monet in the 20th Century, *sponsored by Ernst & Young, is at the Royal Academy (ticket booking line 0171-300 8000) until April 18. Jean-Marie Toulgouat appears in* Omnibus: Mad About Monet *on BBC1 on Thursday (10.20pm)*

The best from Barstow

SALOME isn't *quite* the same without the head on the platter. Or is it? Those who had been disappointed that nothing in Opera North's Richard Strauss gala evening was to be staged were reckoning without the extraordinary and ageless talent of the soprano Josephine Barstow. At the end of this concert she gave one of the finest performances of her career in the final scene from *Salome.*

No growing drama of infatuation had prepared her for it, no physical Dance of the Seven Veils had led up to it, other than in the vividly imagined choreography of the English Northern *Philharmonia* conducted by Opera North's music director, Steven Sloane. Yet Barstow was there, in her own imagination, under that vast moon, pleading first like a

OPERA

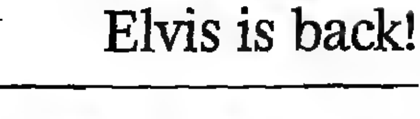
child, then with the dignity of one who has made her final decision, for the head of Jokanaan. *Barstow's only nod* to the histrionic art was in the slightest inclining of the body as she leant forward as if to listen for the moment of execution. And then a single, light touch of the lip with her fingertip as she contemplated her first kiss.

Everything *else was concen*trated in the voice: a basso profundo of defiance against her mother; the bright, feverish gleam unique to Barstow's Salome as speech and song fuse; the silver centre of a single high note as the *Geheimnis der Liebe,* the secret of love, is glimpsed. Barstow was ably supported by Stuart Kale's *fiercely animated* Herod and Carole Wilson's formidable Herodias.

The English Northern Philharmonia had, of course, been working towards this point all evening. The keening principal-oboe inseparable from the haunting lunar palette of *Salome had already shown* his mettle at the Presentation of the Rose in an orchestral suite from *Der Rosenkavalier.* Maddeningly, we were not told who did the cut-and-paste job, which was actually more of an affectionate, old-style scrapbook of reminiscences of the opera. Some of the scraps were, indeed, a little ragged *round the edges, but Sloane* judged to a nicety the spread of schmalz required for the succession of waltzes.

And earlier, a smaller section of the orchestra sharpened their wits for Strauss's own orchestral suite, *Le bourgeois gentilhomme,* played with *due regard for both* its merriment and its melancholy.

HILARY FINCH



CONCERTS
San Francisco sparkle

ARTS

POP
Elvis is back!

ANGELA LUBRANO



Mercury Rev's Jonathan Donahue: reluctant frontman with charisma to spare at the Astoria last Thursday

Maximum revs

POP
Mercury Rev/ Shack
Astoria, WC2

Of the two dozen or so acts that performed at the Astoria last week under the *NME* Carling Premier Shows banner, none has been talked up by media taste-makers more vigorously than Mercury Rev. Their fourth album, *Deserter's Songs*, a delicate and at times wilfully eccentric collection of dispatches from the American rock underground, was heaped with critical praise out of all proportion to its artistic and commercial achievements and, after ten years of erratic manoeuvring, the band from Buffalo, New York, has found itself in the full glare of the spotlight.

On Thursday Mercury Rev responded with an unexpectedly forceful performance that mixed the mournful mood and edgy dynamics of contemporaries such as Radiohead and Spiritualized with the grandeur of progressive rock giants including Neil Young and even Pink Floyd. It was, in short, one hell of a show.

Apart from a rather flat reworking of Nick Cave's *Into My Arms* and a raging encore of John Lennon's *Isolation*, the set was divided equally between material from *Deserter's Songs* and the band's first album, *Yerself is Steam*, released in 1991. Exuding a studious air of application, the six musicians pushed off with *Goddess On A Hiway*.

Although singer and guitarist Jonathan Donahue looked a reluctant frontman, he was not without charisma, and his high, fragile voice lent a poignant twist to *The Funny Bird* and *Tonite it Shows*. Keyboard players Adam Snyder and Dave Fridmann added the majestic sounds of mellotron and other embellishments to the mix but, for the most part, the nuances of the recorded versions were discarded in favour of a bold rock'n'roll dynamic, and numbers such as *Frittering* and *Car Wash Hair* were memorable as much for the cyclonic soloing of lead guitarist Grasshopper as for their undoubted melodic charms.

As the band cruised towards the monumental climax of *Opus 40*, a juddering lightshow lent visual drama to a show which plainly marked out Mercury Rev as one of rock's new heavyweights.

Shack, who played earlier, have languished on the margins of British pop for many years. Led by singer Michael Head, formerly of Liverpudlian under-achievers the Pale Fountains, they played pop-literate songs involving pleasantly chiming electric and acoustic guitars and a sound sense of melodic purpose. But, like so many of the bands granted the unaccustomed exposure of a Premier Shows gig, they seemed a little out of their depth in a venue of this size.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Live from the grave

Elvis - The Concert
Wembley Arena

"ELVIS tickets!" the touts were yelling, doing a brisk trade which they were denied in the king's lifetime. Presley set foot in Britain but once and briefly, when his plane refuelled here in 1960. This arguably made the "virtual Elvis" show his British debut — Presley's digitally enhanced image on a huge screen and his youthful voice accompanied live on stage by his now ageing former band and one-time backing singers.

Natalie Cole had no idea what she was starting when she recorded the first beyond-the-grave duet with her late father eight years ago. This was the second coming not quite made flesh but as eerily close as you can get. The celluloid Presley introduced his old sidemen and there they were, grey and whiskery, but sounding just as they always did. *Play it, James*, Presley told his legendary guitarist in one marvellous moment during *Heartbreak Hotel*, and Burton, now 59, obliged with a blistering solo.

Whether this hybrid form qualifies as genuine live entertainment is another matter. True, pianist Glen D. Hardin, bassist Jerry Scheff, drummer Ronnie Tutt and Burton were real enough. Yet all eyes were fixed on the big screen while the band recreated their performances of almost 30 years ago around Presley's recorded voice, an exercise in precision rather than inspiration. It had impact, but no more so than a good IMAX film.

The costume changes indicated that the footage came from half a dozen early 1970s concerts, several of the performances from the documentary *Elvis — That's The Way It Is*. At the time Presley was in good shape, slim and smoulderingly handsome. He was also undergoing a musical renaissance with songs such as *In The Ghetto* and *Suspicious Minds*, which gave the first half of the show real punch. The big early hits such as *Hound Dog* and *Love Me Tender*, delivered in cabaret style, were mostly kept for after the interval.

Towards the end Presley told his audience: "Turn the house lights up, I'd like to take a look at you." It was as if he was talking directly to us, and the screen switched to the Wembley crowd — not just a virtual Presley concert but an interactive one, too.

And so are all our yesterdays about to be digitally transformed into the brave new future of live entertainment? The sell-out audience's enthusiasm proved that the market for such unashamed nostalgia is boundless. The hologram Hendrix and the cyber Sinatra will surely be coming to a concert hall near you soon.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Root-and-branch revelations



The singing of America is something Michael Tilson Thomas has always taken on with a Whitmanesque zeal. His recent years at San Francisco have seen him commissioning and performing American composers, as well as writing himself.

At the start of their European tour it was a case of West meeting East — from sea to shining sea, as it were — as the San Francisco Symphony introduced itself with Charles Ives's *Three Places in New England*. These idiosyncratic tone poems, with their fearless cross-hatching of metre and texture, immediately put an orchestra, and its audience, on their mettle.

The slow march of the black regiment commemorated in *The Saint-Gaudens in Boston Common* starts so quietly, with its fragments of figures coming into focus as from a long distance, that Tilson Thomas seemed for several seconds to be conducting thin air. And *The Housatonic at Stockbridge* depicts the great slow river in a mesmerising patterning of rhythmic undercurrents and irregular eddies of phrasing. Both here, and as one band collides with another in the central July 4 piece, *Puttnam's Camp*, Tilson Thomas seized the momentum behind every shifting rhythm: and his orchestra responded with swiftness of ensemble.

Tilson Thomas is, of course, as Russian in his roots as he is American in his branches, and Prokofiev provided the evening's blockbuster. This was an epic reading of the Fifth Symphony. Where the music became ever more expansive, the playing, thrillingly, grew still more densely concentrated in its energies.

The strings were never tempted by opulence: rather, their bright, ripe sound articulated the music's high fever; and in the elegiac slow movement tuned into the plangency of this orchestra's meticulously blended woodwind. The sardonic scherzo and the desperation behind the apparent high spirits of the finale could, perhaps, have bitten with sharper teeth. Tilson Thomas preferred to pack punches rather than to conjure terror; but this was a performance of superbly sustained power.



Tilson Thomas: packed a powerful punch

The evening's solo showpiece was Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto played by Gil Shaham. A robust but somewhat unstable and erratic performance was redeemed by Shaham's first-movement cadenza and his slow movement, both of them unusually searching in their thoughtful shaping of suspense and of song.

HILARY FINCH

Sublime high spirits

From the Heart may be the title of the South Bank's celebration of Mozart, but there can also be no better way of describing the playing in this latest instalment of the series. A display of infectious high spirits from the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment proved that there are still musicians out there who love their jobs: reassuring at a time when the woes of orchestral life are being revealed even on television.

But then the music was sublime: three late works of Mozart. It inspired the players really to listen to one another in what amounted to large-scale chamber music-making. In the two piano concertos we heard — both dating from 1786, the *Figaro* year — the orchestra gathered round the soloist, Robert Levin, whose position centre-stage and facing out helped to increase the communicativeness of the performances.

In keeping with the practice of Mozart's day, Levin also directed from the keyboard. As one of the foremost authorities on Classical style, his instinctive grasp of the idiom is matched by very few pianists today. His improvised cadenzas had spontaneous flair yet sounded just right, and they kept orchestra and audience alike on the edge of their seats: a refreshing change from the way in which the same cadenzas are routinely trotted out. Most significantly, the fragile sound of the fortepiano he played (a modern copy of a late 18th-century instrument) drew the ear in, giving the listening experience extra intensity.

Levin used the instrument's tone, dusky lower down and twinkling in the upper register, to bring out details often missed in the scores. He and the orchestra captured all the bittersweet ambiguity of the *Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor*, K491: at moments such as the third movement's shy opening, a real sense of mystery hung over the music, keeping the eventual path of the music a surprise. In the 25th Concerto, K503 in C, they found a perfect balance between the music's playfulness and grandeur, with both coming together in the lively dance of the finale.

The Symphony No 39 in E flat, K543, was only slightly less compelling, and perhaps because Levin is more at home behind a keyboard than in front of an orchestra. His conducting may be unconventional, but he found the structure of a work which moves from muted emotions to high spirits. As with the others, this score was illuminated by the OAE's gossamer playing: ironically, the homogenous textures of a modern-instrument performance would have made the music sound much more old-fashioned than it did here.

JOHN ALLISON

Shaken and stirred by Paddy

Ashdown's announcement leaves Labour protesting too much

Tony Blair has spent the month since Peter Mandelson's resignation claiming that nothing has really changed. New Labour modernisation is continuing as before. Similarly, we are now told, Paddy Ashdown's departure will not affect Labour-Liberal Democrat co-operation and their aim of making the Centre Left the dominant force in British politics. But the very frequency and force with which such claims are made reveals how unsure the Blairites now are.

There is a temptation to link the two departures and to regard Mr Ashdown as the fourth victim of the Mandelson affair. That is too glib. The story began with the report in late October of the Jenkins Commission on Electoral Reform. While Mr Blair welcomed its broad thrust, his response was cooler than leading Liberal Democrats expected. This partly reflected the hostility of many in the Cabinet and on the Labour back benches. An early referendum on electoral reform has therefore looked increasingly unlikely. The subsequent muddled extension of Labour-Lib Dem co-operation was badly received in both parties and put Mr Ashdown on to the defensive.

All this happened before Mr Mandelson's resignation. He was the leading Cabinet advocate both of new Labour and of co-operation, and his departure fuelled speculation about a shift away from new Labour. Mr Blair has quickly underlined his intention to stick to new Labour policies. In particular, there have been announcements on education that have directly challenged failing local education authorities and schools by proposing the involvement of outsiders, including private companies.

Peter Riddell

Mr Blair has also reaffirmed his political strategy. He reacted to John Prescott's rumblings about links with the Lib Dems by initiating an extension of co-operation to European security and defence policies. That was also done in the knowledge of Mr Ashdown's announcement last Wednesday. Despite his earlier decision for family reasons, I still wonder whether, if the Government's response to the Jenkins report had been more positive, and Mr Mandelson's departure had not removed a key ministerial ally, Mr Ashdown might not have been persuaded to stay on longer. Everything would also have looked different if Labour had had a majority of 50 or fewer and Mr Blair had formed a coalition with the Lib Dems.

Downing Street has repeatedly said that co-operation will continue and may even extend to areas such as pensions. No likely successor to Mr Ashdown is going to repudiate his strategy, however sceptical they sound during the leadership contest. Mr Ashdown has talked as if the battle is as good as won and his successor will lead his party into government after the next election. He has certainly taken his party a very long way in the past 11 years, but the future direction is less certain. Many in both parties are hostile and there is little appetite for a big leap forward this side of the election. Moreover, as Mr Ashdown admitted yesterday, he and Mr Blair differ over long-term aims. Mr Ashdown looks to a pluralist politics of co-operation between separate parties based on proportional representation. But Mr Blair talks about a "Big Tent" inclusiveness in which new Labour embraces the whole Centre Left, ending the century-old schism between the Labour and Liberal traditions.

Mr Blair remains clear in his strategy, but unsure tactically, especially with the departure of two close allies. He is also ambivalent about the Lib Dems. He respects Menzies Campbell, who has a high reputation on foreign and defence affairs, though Downing Street's approval would not help his leadership chances, or those of Charles Kennedy. However, if anyone else became leader, Mr Blair might listen more to his advisers, who argue that it is not worth wasting time on such an unreliable and self-righteous bunch. Instead, new Labour should reshape the Centre Left on its own. But, in the long term, that ignores the continuing strength of old Labour and the possible need after the next election for the support of the Lib Dems against a revived Tory party.

However, perhaps the most potent political factor remains Europe and the promised referendum on a single currency. That would bring Labour and the Lib Dems together with the minority of pro-European Tories under a centrist umbrella. The odds are still that a referendum will not be held until after the next election. Mr Mandelson was the Cabinet's most public advocate of getting ready for entry, but his departure has been partially offset by Robin Cook's shift from his earlier scepticism. I predict that one of the big political stories of the year will be Cook's re-emergence as a major player, on both Europe and these broader political issues, on both of which he is now closer to the modernisers than his old allies on the Left.

Mr Blair faces growing pressure to make public his private belief that it is a question of when and how, not if, Britain enters the euro. That is necessary both to persuade business to prepare and to help to swing public opinion behind entry. (The latest poll shows a drop in opposition since the launch of the euro.) A revealing indicator will be the language used when the Government unveils the National Changeover Plan in mid-February. Mr Blair and Gordon Brown have not yet decided on the precise emphasis.

Blairism has been more shaken than its leader would admit. But Mr Blair now has a chance to show that his political strategy, as well as his policies, remains on course. Boldness on the euro would not only strengthen Britain's position in Europe but would also reshape the political landscape at home.

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LORD PROTECTOR OF THE NEW COMMONWEALTH

Cromwell, where are you?

The Lord Protector left a bloody legacy, but at this time of constitutional ferment we need another man of destiny

On January 30, 1649, King Charles I was beheaded on a platform, just outside the Banqueting House, in Whitehall; on January 21, 1793, King Louis XVI was guillotined in what is now the Place de la Concorde; on July 16, 1918, Tsar Nicholas II was shot in the House of Special Purpose at Ekaterinburg.

The killing of the King was the climax of each of the three great revolutions of modern Europe. Each death has had a long historic resonance; the English revolution not only influenced the other two, but laid the ideological foundation for the American Declaration of Independence. Like the killing of the Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand, on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, the execution of Charles I is an event in a history we are still living.

Gilbert Burnet, the 17th-century historian who was to become Bishop of Salisbury, was only five years old when the King died; nevertheless, his judgment of the conduct of Charles is the classic expression of a common contemporary view. Burnet was later to give the sermon at the Coronation of William and Mary, after the Revolution of 1688.

"The King himself showed a calm and a composed firmness which amazed all people; and that so much the more, because it was not natural to him . . . it was owing wholly to somewhat within himself that he went through so many indignities with so much true greatness, without disorder or any sort of affectation. Thus, he died greater than he had lived; and showed, which had often been observed of the whole race of the Stewarts, that they bore misfortune better than prosperity.

"His reign, both in peace and war, was a continual succession of errors; so that it did not appear that he had a true judgment of things. He was out of measure set on following his humour, but unreasonably feeble to those whom he trusted, chiefly to the Queen. He had too high a notion of the regal power, and thought that every opposition to it was rebellion. He minded little things too much, and was more concerned in drawing a paper than in fighting a battle."

The great 17th-century issues at the root of the Civil War are not dead; most of them are not even sleeping. When they killed Charles I, the republicans thought and the monarchists feared that that was an end to the monarchy, that there would never again be a King of England. Most people would have been amazed to learn that the monarchy would be restored and would then survive for 350 years.

Yet English republicanism is also still alive. The abolition of the hereditary principle in the House of Lords leaves the monarchy as the only hereditary part of the British constitution. The close link between King and Lords was demonstrated in 1649; the Lords were abolished by Cromwell only five days after the King had been beheaded.

William Rees-Mogg

The Civil War was not just an English matter. There were really three civil wars, an English one, an Irish one and a Scottish one. They had their own character and at every stage, they interacted. Charles would not have had to call a Parliament in 1640 if the Scots had not defeated him in the Second Bishops' War; they had even occupied Newcastle and Durham. He would not have ended in Cromwell's hand if the Scots had not surrendered him in 1646; they sold him for £400,000. As Charles was King of Scotland, this is a transaction of which Scottish historians are still ashamed. From Strafford's administration in Ireland to Cromwell's genocidal suppression of the Irish revolt, Ireland, like Scotland, was essential to the struggle in England. Both these national issues remain unresolved and ominous in 1999.

If Charles had been prepared to hand over powers to Parliament, he could have saved his life, right down to the last months. He was distrusted because he was thought too close to the Roman Catholic European powers; his dominant wife was a French Catholic of Italian descent. The constitutional issues of 1649 included the future of the monarchy, the future of the House of Lords, the powers of the House of Commons, relations with Europe and the national independence of Ireland and Scotland. On these issues, men felt passionately enough to kill and to be killed.

All of these are still constitutional issues in 1999; Ireland at least has been a life-and-death issue for most of the past 30 years. They have a fatal energy about them; Europe had the force to split the Conservative Party in the late 20th century, as Ireland split the Liberal Party in the late 19th.

It is natural that parties should form, split and reform around these conflicts. These are the things people care for most in politics. In the 17th century the question of loyalty could be expressed in this way: does one owe loyalty to King or Parliament, to monarchy or to the will of the people? Now the immediate conflict of loyalty is between Europe and Britain, or perhaps between Europe and England; the Eurosceptics say it is a conflict between bureaucracy and democracy.

There is also the conflict between the independent nation and any larger allegiance. Cromwell broke Scotland, politically and militarily, and that provided the basis for the Act of Union, 50 years after his death. Yet Scottish independence is again a growing cause. Even more brutally, Cromwell broke Ireland; it was not for 270 years that Irish independence was regained. These national loyalties cannot be eradicated; in the end the grass grows through the concrete.

When politicians have to deal with these explosive forces, which decide the future of nations and dwarf the ordinary scale of political life, a particular kind of leader is likely to emerge, someone with an immense appetite for power, a capacity for ruthless action, a soaring confidence in a personal destiny and, quite often, a genius for duplicity. All of these qualities were possessed by Cromwell; none of them by Charles I. Both men were willing enough to deceive, but Cromwell deceived successfully, repeatedly playing off Presbyterians against Independents, Parliament against Army. Charles was an amateur of deception, ever more deeply mistrusted.

Oliver Cromwell was a horrible great man. Charles was a noble, silly, weak King. The Irish still remember and detest Cromwell for his massacres. After 3,000 people had been killed at Drogheda, on Cromwell's orders to take no prisoners, he commented that it was "a righteous judgment of God upon these barbarous wretches". Even the Irish genocide has a modern echo: another military dictator, Augusto Pinochet, is alleged to have killed 3,000 people in Chile. Perhaps we should extradite Cromwell's statue to Spain, rather than leaving it to stand outside the Parliament he purged.

In the 1640s the whole tempo of English politics accelerated, as it did in France after 1789, or in Russia after 1917. Leaders emerged, proved inadequate and were swept aside. Some could survive the floodtide of events for a year or two, only to disappear. The weak King had chance after chance to avoid the catastrophe. He could take none of them. In the end, it was the strong man, who saw himself as the man of destiny, who prevailed. Yet at an unforgivable price in blood.

No one supposes that Britain, at the end of the 20th century, is about to experience another revolution. But the issues which confront British politicians are again revolutionary ones, the break-up of the United Kingdom, integration with Europe, the shift of sovereignty away from the House of Commons. The social situation is not revolutionary, or even pre-revolutionary, but these constitutional issues have an energy which can destroy the calculations of rational politics. In the coming years, we shall see who can breast this tide. He will need to be much more of a Cromwell than a Charles; he will need to be better at fighting battles than at crafting papers.

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Prime sauce

FIRST we have Jeremy Clarkson as Tory transport spokesman; now a cookery presenter is advising the Government on the arts. Loyd Grossman, who drawls affectedly on *Masterchef*, *Through the Keyhole* and other televisual epics, will sit on a new Design Group examining the future of libraries and museums. The move follows news that Clarkson will be hired to rail about the Government's roads policies. Grossman will help Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, to "promote wider access" to archives and collections. Smith must have been attracted by Grossman's work advertising pasta sauce.

● *YOKO ONO has been making peace, not war, with the Lennons. Inga Pedersen, adopted out of Lennon's family shortly after her birth, was omitted from the singer's will. Now Yoko — who has a bracing relationship with most of his clan — is keeping Inga sweet by sending her food hampers.*

Boot camp

GAZZA could be going up to university. Johan Cruyff, the former Dutch international footballer, is setting up a college for ageing sports stars, designed to guide them away from the "George Best retirement route". Cruyff (pictured left) wants to help them over the "black hole" which opens when

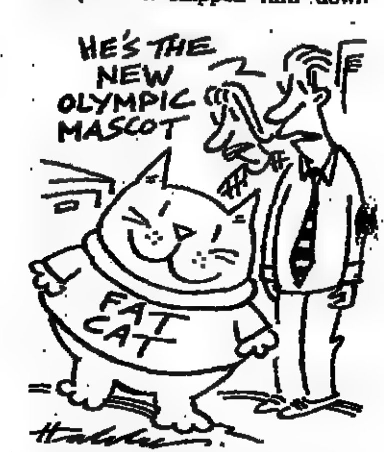



they run out of puff: his Netherlands centre will offer courses in marketing, management and sports journalism, and Gascoigne, 31 (right), is an ideal Fresher. Says my source at the university: "It will keep him out of trouble — if he avoids the student bar."

● *Grandee back-scratching. Lord Goodman and Lord Kissin, the moustachioed bounder, took care of each other. Goodman, the late political fixer accused of plundering Viscount Portman's fortune, helped Kissin to fend off a takeover bid for his merchant bank in the late Eighties; Kissin returned the favour by paying the rent on his Portman Place flat until Goodman's death in 1995.*

Sit Vac

OUR most prominent female barrister is fighting the Foreign Office for money. Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws chairs the British Council, and wants to award a fat-cat salary to its next Director-General: the FCO, which gives the council £133 million a year, is resisting. The DG's job has lain vacant since David Drewry resigned in November (Helena slapped him down



after he tried to remove the senior board of management) and she wants to "reward experience" with £120,000 a year. The FCO is wary. Says my mole: "Anything over £100,000 is excessive."

● *SNP spinners have an apt spot to slake their thirst. The party's media centre in Edinburgh is next to Fibber Megee's pub: named after "someone who never told the truth and always had a tale".*

Lifer

TOFFS by the back door. The editor of *Burke's Peerage* applauds Tony Blair for keeping Europe's oldest traceable family in the Lords: Onora O'Neill, the Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, who was recently created a life peer, can trace her lineage back, through the High Kings of Ireland, to AD360. "The O'Neills are descended from Eochio Mugmeden, King of Tara," gushes Charles Mosley. "It's good to see new Labour giving our older families seats."

JASPER GERARD

'This is a God-forgotten place,' the Russians are fond of saying, and it is sometimes hard to disagree with them

Russia has been famous for many centuries as one of the world's worst offenders as far as almost every kind of human degradation goes. Travellers as far back as the 10th century have described Russians as animals and have been terrified by Russians' inhumanity to Russian. Konrad Bussow, a German merchant living in Moscow, wrote awe-stricken of the horrors of the 1601-04 famine. This period was one of the many in Russian history known as "the time of troubles", but how troublesome does a time have to be for people to abandon the very features that make them human?

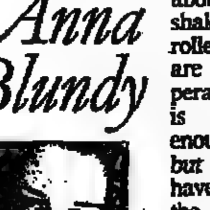
"But I swear by God that in Moscow I saw, with my own eyes, people who rolled in the streets and, like animals, ate grass during the summer and hay during the winter. Some of those who died had hay as well as human excrement in their mouths. Parents killed, prepared, and cooked many of their children; children did the same with their parents; hosts with visitors; and visitors with hosts," wrote Bussow.

Admittedly things are not quite as bad as this today, but the tabloid press is nonetheless full of tales of barely human deeds, of people who seem to have lost not only their moral values but their very animal instincts.

There are mothers ordering contract killing of their sons, prisoners intentionally infecting each other with tuberculosis and people attempting to sell their unwanted children for dollars. In an experiment with gorillas, some American sadist discovered that if one heats the floor under a mother's feet, she will eventually stand on her child to relieve herself of the pain. Somebody appears to be heating the floor under Russia again.

I met a Russian Jeremy Paxman-type person last week who was in a despairing mood about his country. "I mean, almost all animals have it in them to look after their children and to preserve themselves. We seem unable even to manage that," he sighed. Although thought of as a witty and irreverent character by his viewers, this man uses his humour for a purpose — to prick the pomposity of the politicians he singles out for derision and to highlight the desperate problems of his compatriots. In life, he is serious and genuinely downcast at the state of his motherland.

Anna Blundy



In some Russian prisons up to two thirds of the inmates suffer from TB. Everybody here knows about it, heads are shaken, eyes are rolled and foreheads are stroked by exasperated hands. This is all quite bad enough, obviously, but now prisoners have begun selling the disease to each other in order to wheedle preferential treatment (by what means, exactly, they infect each other, God knows). "Seriously," nodded the charismatic television presenter who had brought it up, "it's awful, but it's true. We did a piece about it."

The situation in Russian prisons is so Dickensianly appalling that the idea of trying to get ill on top of the basic problem of trying to survive even in perfect health is unthinkable. "This is a god-forgotten place," Russians are fond of saying, and it is sometimes hard to disagree.

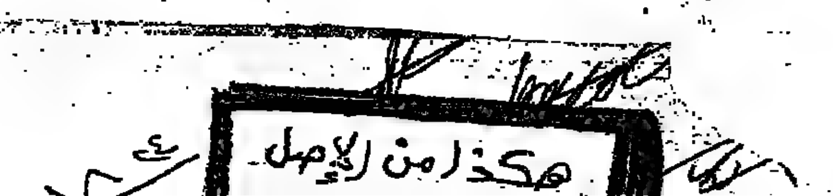
Last week yet another heart-wrenching tale of economic hardship in a moral vacuum popped up — that of a young couple apprehended in the process of selling a baby boy for $6,500. Yulya Melikhova, 22, and her boyfriend had actually gone all the way from Moscow to Vladimir to collect Melikhova's baby son from the grindingly depressing orphanage in which she had placed him at birth. She feigned a change of heart and love for her the baby and he spent a few days with his mother before she brought him to Moscow, where a 38-year-old male buyer, and thankfully the police, awaited him.

The sale and attempted sale of babies is by no means rare in Russia, and little Roman, Melikhova's son, is now a resident of Moscow Children's Home No. 6 where he is the third nearly-sold baby taken in over the past year.

In Russia's nightmarish orphanages, which house more than 200,000 children, more than 90 per cent of children have one or both parents living — people who voluntarily give up their own children to institutions so awful that an estimated one million Russian children prefer to live on the streets.

Westerners like to blame this country's ills on Communism, but Captain Richard Chancellor attests to the fact that Russia and her people have had it bad much longer than that. In 1553, having arrived in Russia by accident, Chancellor made his way to Ivan the Terrible's Moscow. Afterwards he wrote: "In my opinion there are no such people under the sun for their hardness of living." Nothing has changed.

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THE TIMES

LET BATTLE BEGIN

Liberal Democrats cannot suspend an election for five months

There will have been many anxious telephone conversations among top Liberal Democrats this weekend, even if silence has been maintained in public. It is a *tribute to Paddy Ashdown* that there are now seven possible contenders considering a bid to replace him. This is more than the total *number of Liberals* elected to the House of Commons as recently as 1970. But the manner in which this contest is constructed is far *less commendable*. The candidates are supposed to make no formal announcement and avoid any personal campaigning until after the results of the elections for the European Parliament are declared in 20 weeks' time. This would be odd in any circumstances. For a party that prides itself on democratic *participation it is ridiculous.*

The original desire to defer debate is not entirely illogical. The Liberal Democrats are *a relatively small organisation* and depend upon a limited number of activists. Those resources will be stretched fighting local elections in England, *seeking seats in* the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, all of which will be swiftly followed by the European Parliament ballot. The distraction of a full-blown leadership battle could, it is feared, redeploy manpower and energy at the expense of their electoral prospects. It might also prove a divisive struggle that damages the party's image in the country.

There are, though, more persuasive reasons why *Liberal Democrats* would be wise to end the phoney war and let their contest commence in earnest. The first is one of *simple practicality*. Every act and word of the prospective candidates will be analysed over the next few months for some wider meaning. It will hardly help Liberal Democrats at the polls if party luminaries are obliged to be deliberately bland in order to suppress speculation. Shadow campaign organisations will inevitably need to be established and it will be impossible for them to function in secret.

There are *also positive virtues for the* Liberal Democrats in a lively if lengthy leadership engagement. It will provide plentiful publicity for a party which often complains that it is neglected by the media. As the entire rank-and-file is permitted to choose Mr Ashdown's successor, a membership increase on some large scale might be expected. This would have the further advantage of enhancing party coffers. All this should help in the elections.

There *is also a wider issue of public* interest. The central question facing Liberal Democrats today is their relationship with the Labour Party. Voters are entitled to know when they cast their ballots this spring whether Mr Ashdown's *entente* with Tony Blair will continue much as before, be reduced in intensity or abandoned completely. Some voters will approve of the Ashdown-Blair pact and be inclined to back the party on that basis. Others who voted for Labour in 1997 might sense that it renders support for the Liberal Democrats, in protest at some aspect of *government policy since then, redundant.*

Unless candidates are allowed to set out their stalls it will be impossible to make any *estimate of the direction that the* Liberal Democrats may be taking. Should a six-month leadership contest be deemed excessive there is an alternative. If Mr Ashdown's resignation were made effective immediately, the entire race for his crown could be completed in six weeks, ending well before the May elections. A fresh figure rather than a lame duck would take the Liberal Democrats into those forays. The first months of Mr Ashdown's leadership were marred by an embarrassing argument over the name of his new party. It would be unfortunate if the last months of his tenure were scarred by an equally slapstick system for succession.

GREEN MISCHIEF

If Germany wants an end to nuclear power, it must pay the price

Gerhard Schröder's struggle to forge his Red-Green coalition into a coherent German Government has until now been complicated more by the Reds, in the restive person of his left-wing rival Oskar Lafontaine, than by the once untameable Greens. Herr Lafontaine's *frankly socialist* ambitions have *seriously* embarrassed a Chancellor anxious to pose as a centrist friendly to business. In the bearpit of the new German politics, Joshka Fischer, the Greens' leader, has until now behaved commendably by contrast, repaying Herr Schröder's trust and the award of the Foreign Minister's portfolio by muffling his hostility to Nato and *enthusiasm for a* United States of Europe in a blanket of consensual discretion. The illusion that all was quiet on the Green front may explain why Herr Schröder should seemingly have sleepwalked into a Green ambush over nuclear power.

The Greens, determined to rid Germany of the nuclear power which produces 35 per cent of its energy, *have started with a law* banning all recycling of German nuclear waste by January 2000. Because this processing *is done not in Germany, but by* France's Cogema and by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), that means cancelling contracts with these *companies* worth £3 billion and £1.2 billion respectively.

Herr Schröder has little enthusiasm for the *Greens' anti-nuclear crusade, and no* wonder. *Shutting* down Germany's 19 nuclear plants, most of which have 40 years of *safe life in them*, is likely to cost £30 billion and 150,000 jobs. That is why Herr Schröder hopes to phase it over 20 to 40 years, *not* by 2004 as the Greens demand. Nuclear fuel is unpopular in Germany; but so will be the price to *taxpayers of decommissioning*. The move is also environmentally unsound; cost-effective alternatives to nuclear energy will increase the emissions of "greenhouse gases" that Germany is obliged under international treaties to reduce. Germany has no national waste management plan and its plants cannot build secure storage dumps by next January's deadline. To take back the 3,800 tonnes of waste treated in France, plus 30 tonnes of plutonium fuel, will require 40 convoys trundling across Germany. *These are the shipments that*, in opposition, Greens fought pitched battles to stop. Germany could also have to take back 650 tonnes of treated and untreated nuclear waste from BNFL.

These problems are Germany's business; *but its decision to end nuclear reprocessing* damages French and British interests too. Germany refuses to accept liability for breach of contract. The *Green Environment* Minister claims that Germany is absolved by the "act of God" of having changed *governments* and laws. *This* displays little more respect for legal principles than the slogan "might is right", which Germany of all countries ought to wish buried deeper than the most toxic wastes.

Herr *Schröder's* claim last week to have read the contracts and found "no cause" for damage claims by companies or governments is unconvincing. Germany's contractual obligations are clear, and onerous. "Sale or return" clauses have been written into the commercial contracts, which are backed by intergovernmental accords which the furious French rightly *insist* are tantamount to treaties. To hold his coalition together, Herr Schröder may have felt obliged to give way to the Greens. He will pay dearly at home as the consequences become plain. Nor can he escape the international *consequences*. Backing their industries, Britain and France should insist on exacting every penny that *is due.*

666 AND ALL THAT

Most people will prefer the Devil they know

"If I were a painter," mused William Congreve, "*I would draw the Devil like an* idiot, a driveller with a bib and bell." Such illustrations will no longer find favour in the *Roman Catholic* Church. Just days after the Vatican declared that God is "not to be imagined as an old man with a flowing *beard*", Rome believes it is now time to remould the Devil's image. Out goes all references to Beelzebub, the Foul *Spirit*, the Accursed Dragon or the Master of Deceit. In comes a "more subtle and sophisticated" definition, which recognises *that the force of evil lurks in all individuals.*

Under various names — the fallen angel, the Lord of Flies, the Lord of Dung, *Lucifer* — the Devil *has* been trying to tempt man to reject the way of life and redemption and accept the way of death and destruction. In Genesis, Satan *is portrayed as the serpent*, *tempter of mankind*. St Peter warned the Christians of "a roaring lion", while Martin Luther cautioned *people to beware* of "a silly sheep". At other times in his diabolical career, Old Harry has been appeared as a woodpecker, a blackbird, a leopard and a series of numerals — the most popular being Hell's emergency number, 666. Yet the attributes of the Devil *most people recognise* were appropriated from Greek gods. Satan was given Pan's horns, cloven hoofs, tail and hairy lower body, and Poseidon's trident, and took over Hades's role as Prince of Darkness.

There was *good reason to give evil a face*. People found it easier to understand and accept an idea when it was manifested in *either in animal or human form*, rather than expressed as a vague, abstract notion. Hieronymus Bosch's painting of a monster with *flaming hair* who gobbles up human beings, or Signorelli's grey-skinned creature with a single horn squashing a *woman*, have a simple aim: to terrify people about the Devil's intentions.

Attempts to reduce the Archfiend to a *modern* medical concept of "psychological disturbance" are destined to fail. At the end of the 20th century, Lucifer is engrained in popular *culture*. *There is the Devil's dozen*, snuffbox, nostrils, four-poster, candlestick, shoestrings and punchbowl. At the last election, *Demon Eyes peered down from* Conservative election posters, trying to scare voters away from the Prince of Darkness's party. The forces of good are still fighting the powers of evil — Darth Vader, Blofeld, the Joker, none of whom is the "subtle" definition of evil that Rome *now endorses*. The Vatican may try to give evil a make-over but most people will prefer the Devil they know.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Caution needed in witness protection

From Mr Jon Holbrook

Sir, The Youth Justice and Criminal *Evidence Bill, now in its committee* stage in the Lords, proposes to protect "vulnerable and intimidated witnesses". Much of the clamour for litigation on this issue stems from Julia Mason's lengthy cross-examination by the man who raped her, Ralston Edwards (*reports and leading article*, August 23, 1996).

In the two and a half years since that celebrated trial hardly any instances of witness intimidation have *reached a victim-friendly media*. By contrast, the media have been full of cases where witnesses *have* either lied or been mistaken. Today you report the conviction of a jealous woman who made false rape allegations against six men, and Jonathan Aitken's *admission of perjury*.

In her letter of January 18, supporting the Bill, Helen Reeves (Director of Victim Support) does not complain about actual witness intimidation. Rather, she refers to witnesses' "perceptions" of the court process. Honest *witnesses have little to fear in* discharging their public duty by going to court.

The Lords could help get this message across if they threw out those parts of the Bill that seek to protect vulnerable witnesses. Fears grow if *they are fed; they shrink* if they are challenged.

Yours faithfully,
JON HOLBROOK,
Freedom & Law,
Worldwrite Centre,
14 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PF.
flawman@ednet.co.uk
January 20.

From Mr R. W. Farrington, JP

Sir, Ms Helen Reeves would seem to *believe that when a woman says she* has been raped there should be a presumption that she is telling the truth, which *may* be tantamount to presuming the guilt of the man charged.

All the special arrangements she advocates are open to a glaring objection, that they will suggest to a jury that the alleged victim has indeed *suffered what it is claimed she has* suffered. But it is just this that the jury has to decide.

Are we content to slip towards a position in which men charged with *rape have to prove their innocence?*

Yours truly,
ROGER FARRINGTON,
77 Marsham Court,
Marsham Street, SW1P 4LA.
January 18.

Millennium flights

From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sir, Your leader of January 16, "In the millennium hot seat", applauds the insistence by the Chinese Govern*ment that senior personnel of the state* airline should book themselves on flights straddling the end of the millennium, as an incentive to protect their planes against crashing as a result of the *millennium* bug (see also letter, January 20). You suggest that Western airlines might do the same.

Such a drastic measure is unlikely to prove necessary since I suspect that few Western airlines will be putting planes in the sky over that period. Even *if they* were prepared *to put* passengers' lives at risk (which they are not), such flights would effectively be bereft of full insurance cover.

Some airline insurance companies have already *made* it clear that their cover will exclude the most common claims, such as the loss of baggage, arising from the consequential effects of the bug (report, December 28, 1998). Their justification is entirely logical: insurance covers unforeseeable risks, of which the bug is not one.

Unless these problems can be solved, it seems likely that many aircraft will be grounded for a period of unknown length, straddling the *arrival of the new millennium*. Airlines might like to clarify their bookings policy during that period.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Head of Economics,
Chantrey Vellacott DFK,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1B 5LF.
January 21.

Legal aid reforms

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, The President of the Law Society ("*Cash limit will affect quality of legal aid*", Law, January 19) expresses fears that civil legal aid reforms will result in an unacceptable restriction in public choice of legal aid solicitors. *Such fears are unfounded.*

Today any solicitor, whether he has the expertise or not, can run a case on legal aid *from beginning* to end. The point of my reforms is to give people on legal aid a choice from among about 3,000 quality-assured firms. That compares with the 4,987 offices today which do 92 per cent of legal aid work in value, about 40 per cent of which are not quality-assured.

I would sooner have legal aid with an assurance of quality than a slightly wider choice without.

Yours sincerely,
IRVINE of LAIRG,
House of Lords.
January 21.

Practice and theory for nursing

From the Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Council

Sir, In his argument for a separate college of practical nursing (letter, January 19; see also letters, January 12) Dr Max Gammon criticises "the heavily academic bias" of current nursing education. In fact, 90 per cent of student nurses study for a higher education diploma and split their time equally between practice and theory. In pre-diploma days the divide was 60 per cent practice, 40 per cent theory.

The introduction of the diploma saw no increase in minimum entry requirements. Increasingly people enter nursing education with vocational *qualifications: NVQ/SVQ level 3 or* GNVQ advanced, both equivalent to five GCSEs. Many mature students require no formal qualifications.

The diploma was introduced ten *years ago because of high dropout* rates from nurse training. It was also prompted by the need for nursing education to reflect changes in healthcare. Today over a quarter of nurses work in the community and, given the drive towards primary care, that *proportion is likely to increase*. Hospitals are also changing, with patients staying for much shorter periods and therefore demanding a higher intensity of specialised nursing care. Nurses in *my own* field of daycare services need a breadth of knowledge to enable them to practise both in hospitals and the community.

Difficulties exist with the current system, of course. The RCN wants better support for students when they are on placements in hospitals or in the community. Steps must also be taken to ensure that nursing students have acquired all the necessary skills on completion of their course. But *simply to call for a return to the old* days is unhelpful.

Yours faithfully,
DEBBIE MURDOCK,
Chair, RCN Council,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1M 0AB.
January 20.

From Lord Jenkin of Roding and Dr Sir Gerard Vaughan

Sir, We were ministers at the then Department of Health and Social Security when the foundations for what became Project 2000 were laid in the early 1980s, following legislation passed before the 1979 election.

The Briggs report had spelt out the *inadequacies of the then existing* system of nurse training, which relied on large numbers of nursing students on hospital wards, many, indeed most of whom were little more than cheap labour. Their academic education was patchy and too few went on to gain degree, or degree-equivalent, qualifications.

Today's picture is very different, mainly because the needs of the NHS have changed. Far more emphasis is now given to primary care: in 1977 there were only 1,500 nurses working *in GPs' surgeries*; by 1996 *the figure* had risen to 18,000. So of course there is more training in the community and less in hospitals.

For those who work in hospitals, shorter patient stays mean more pressure on staff and there has been a *steady call for more clinical responsi*bility to be given to nurses, leaving doctors free to concentrate on the most seriously ill patients.

Project 2000 has therefore tilted the balance towards more education on academic subjects with less time for *learning practical skills. Yet this must* not be exaggerated: the balance today is about 50-50 compared with 60 (practical) 40 (theory) pre-Project 2000.

In the light of this we view with some dismay the suggestion by the *Secretary of State for Health (report*, January 16) that the clock should be put back. This seems to have surfaced in the wake of recent winter pressures on the service, with no regard to the *review of nurse education led by the* UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, due to report in the autumn. Nurse education is too important for knee-jerk reactions.

Yours etc,
PATRICK JENKIN,
GERARD VAUGHAN,
28 Ponsonby Terrace, SW1P 4QA.
January 20.

From Mr Stephen Timmons

Sir, Frank Dobson believes that the academic component of nurse education is putting potential applicants off. Yet the figures you quote suggest the opposite. Degree courses are oversubscribed, while diploma places are unfilled. Five GCSEs (or equivalent) are required to enter a diploma course. Applicants who do not have these can take an aptitude test.

Are poor pay and working conditions far more of a disincentive than academic requirements?

Yours,
STEPHEN TIMMONS
(Senior Lecturer, Healthcare Practice,
Anglia University),
12 River Mead, Bocking,
Braintree, Essex CM7 9AX.
s.timmons@anglia.ac.uk
January 18.

Goodman's good name

From Mr David Astor, CH

Sir, The wholly unsubstantiated allegations against the late Lord Goodman (reports, January 19; letters, January 21) should not be generally *accepted until detailed facts behind* them are offered. Meanwhile, it can safely be said that no one who knew Arnold Goodman at all well can recognise him in the terms in which his *anonymous* ill-wisher has presented him.

He is accused of using money to gain influence. In fact his influence came entirely from his outstanding ability to negotiate intractable industrial and political disputes and to advise shrewdly on all matters concerning human relations. He handled money matters so seldom and so indifferently that towards the end of his life he astonishingly had to sell his small collection of paintings to help buy his retirement bungalow outside Oxford.

He is alleged to have been devoted to the Labour Party. He never was. He worked *professionally* for Hugh Gaitskell. His dealings with Harold Wilson were unhappy. But he worked unpaid for Sir Alec Douglas-Home when asked to undertake tiresome but *important negotiations over* Rhodesia.

Above all, he is accused by his *traducer of dishonesty*. He was in fact distinguished in public and private *life by his strict fidelity to the truth, his* total confidentiality and his scrupulous care in all his dealings. This was the basis of all his many influential relationships.

No doubt, like the rest of us, he made mistakes. In the latter part of his life he made more mistakes. But when the details of whatever muddle he may have become involved in in *his last years are revealed*, they seem highly unlikely to have any serious effect on his great and real reputation, which this rather cowardly posthumous attack seems intended to destroy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASTOR,
24 St Anns Terrace, NW8 6PJ.
January 22.

The right stuff?

From Mr Brian Butcher

Sir, I was delighted to read (report, January 13) of Irish schoolgirl Sarah Flannery's award-winning data-protection code. I was particularly pleased that she "had to go through lots of stuff" before achieving success.

When quizzed on the content of their school day, my own teenage children regularly admit to doing "just stuff".

Is it too late, or can I fill the gap in *my own education* by taking up this subject now?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN BUTCHER,
69 Honey Lane, Cholsey,
Oxfordshire OX10 9NJ.
brian.butcher@rowsehoney.co.uk

Bride for the Nineties

From Mr Brian Parker

Sir, The success of the 98-year-old *Chinese man in attracting* 11 replies to his "marry me" advertisement (World in brief, January 19) reminds me of the story of a 70-year-old who sought similar good fortune.

He asked for advice: "Should I subtract 20 years from my age?"

"No," was the reply, "you would do better if you add 20."

Yours sincerely,
B. H. PARKER,
Rook House, Victoria Road,
Dartmouth, Devon TQ6 9HD.
brian.parker@virgin.net
January 20.

Workplace smoking

From Mr Kenneth Torricke-Barton

Sir, Thurrock council's decision (report, January 15) to make smokers work an extra 2½ hours a week to compensate for cigarette breaks is misguided, as well as fashionably draconian.

To prevent wasted time, responsible bosses offer fair workplace smoking policies. Enlightened ones provide facilities to enable people to continue work while smoking. Even the White Paper on tobacco, *Smoking Kills*, published in December 1998, advises against workplace smoking bans, with the Government committed to a code of practice that will accommodate smokers.

As Thurrock council chose to ban *smoking, it should compensate smok*ers for the inconvenience of standing outside instead of penalising them with longer hours.

Yours truly,
K. TORRICKE-BARTON
(Co-ordinator,
Fair Cigarette Tax Campaign),
Deakin Leas,
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JT.
January 15.

Sport letters, page 35

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a *daytime telephone number*. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Sentenced soldiers continue to serve

From Mrs Jean McBride

Sir, On Friday January 15 you carried *a report on a former British soldier*, Clive Sutton, who was discharged from the Army following a court case which found that he had killed two pedestrians while drunk-driving. In 1993 he was sentenced to four years' jail.

On September 4, 1992, my son, 18-year-old Peter McBride, was shot dead by two soldiers, Scots Guards Mark Wright and James Fisher. They were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Belfast court but were granted early release in September 1998. *Despite the murder convictions they* were not discharged from the Army and remain serving soldiers.

For some time I have sought information from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces as to why two men convicted in a court of law of *murder* have been allowed *to rejoin* their regiment. The minister has yet to give a proper explanation to my family.

A soldier convicted of a drunk-driving incident involving loss of life is discharged. Two soldiers convicted of *murder are allowed to continue* serving in their regiment. Some lives are clearly worth less than others, despite the judgment of a court of law.

Yours,
JEAN McBRIDE,
Flat 5b, Maeve House,
Belfast BT15 2EU.
January 20.

Orchestra finances

From Mr Raymond Gubbay

Sir, It is good to note that the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) has finally woken up to what many of us have known for years, that Covent *Garden's ever-increasing Arts Coun*cil grant has been gained at the expense of orchestras and other performing arts organisations, many of whose finances are, as you report ("Orchestra flail 'unfair' Arts Council", *Arts*, January 19), in a highly parlous state.

A period of rehabilitation normally follows expiation of past misdeeds. Yet Covent Garden has been allowed *to get away with huge accumulated* losses for which no public accountability has ever been made. Not only has the Arts Council failed to make any public statement about what has *happened to the £20 million addition*al grant given to the Royal Opera House to tide it over the two-year closure period; it has given the ROH even more public money, although *the Opera House has cancelled most* of its current year's work.

ABO members and others can only watch in horror whilst Covent Garden's avarice continues to cause damage to other *rather* more modest and better-deserving recipients of government arts funding. Perhaps the orchestras should consider cancelling most of their current seasons, asking their music directors *to threaten* resignation and encouraging some of *their leading players to move en masse* to Japan. Similar tactics seem to have worked out well for Covent Garden.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND GUBBAY,
Raymond Gubbay Limited,
Knight House,
29-31 East Barnet Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN4 8RN.
January 19.

Chambers wit

From Mrs Janet Welford

Sir, I wonder if any of your readers could tell me whether the entry in Chambers (letters, January 12, 18, 19 and 22) under "taghairm" is a joke or is this normal behaviour for people in the Highlands?

Taghairm: n. (in the Scottish Highlands), *divination; esp. inspiration sought by lying* in a bullock's hide behind a waterfall.

Yours faithfully,
JANET WELFORD,
10 Arreton Close, Leicester LE3 2PP.
January 24.

From Dr Adrian Seville

Sir, What is *not* in Chambers may also amuse.

In the 1960s, the dictionary had not caught up with "miniskirts". The celebrated crossword compiler Ximenes (D. S. Macnutt) therefore clued the word thus:

They should not be looked up in chambers!

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SEVILLE,
Tudeley House, Royal Parade,
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6NW.
January 22.

Liquid intake

From Mr James Ashley Cooper

Sir, My *mother* had a great zest for life and much enjoyed giving and going to parties right up to the end of her 94-year life.

In her latter years her doctor advised her to drink more (letters, January 7, 15 and 21) for some complaint. She replied: "But I don't *think I can afford to.*"

Yours,
JIM A. COOPER,
Hexton Manor,
Nr Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3JH.
email: 100775.117@compuserve.com
January 21.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
January 24: Divine Service was held in St Mary the Virgin Church, Flitcham, this morning.
The Bishop of St Albans preached the Sermon.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 23: The Duke of York, Patron in Chief, will attend the Annual Gathering of the BSES at the Royal Geographical Society at Kensington Gore, London SW1.

Lord Denning, OM

Sir John Balcombe, Treasurer of Lincoln's Inn, and Lady Balcombe called upon Lord Denning, OM, at his home in Whitchurch on Saturday to convey affectionate greetings from his fellow benchers and the members, students and staff of *Lincoln's Inn on the occasion of* Lord Denning's 100th birthday.

Dinners

Arbitrators' Company
Alderman Sir Christopher Walford, Lord Mayor *locum tenens*, was a speaker at the annual dinner of the Arbitrators' *Company held* on Friday at the Mansion House. Mr Michael Hinton, Master, presided. Lord Justice Evans, President of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, and the Senior Warden also spoke.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare and Mr Ken Livingstone, MP, were the speakers at a debate at the annual dinner of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held on Saturday at Grosvenor House. Mr Peter Hobday presided at the debate and Mr Richard Lay, president of the institution, was the host.

The Western Circuit
The Western Circuit held a Dinner at *Inner Temple Hall on January 22* to mark the retirement of Lord Nolan and Lord Justice Hutchison, the appointment to the Court of Appeal of Lord Justices Mantell, Tuckey, Chadwick and Laws and the appointment to the High Court Bench of Mr Justice Toulson and Mr Justice Neuberger. The Circuit also drank to the health of Lord Denning, OM, to mark his 100th *birthday on January 23.*

18 St John Street, Manchester
Mr Jonathan Foster, QC, and *members of 18 St John Street* held a dinner on Friday night at Nico Central, Manchester, for Sir Rodney Klevan, their former Head of Chambers, to celebrate his appointment as a judge of the High Court.

Service dinner

RAF Church Fenton
Air Marshal Sir John Day presided at a dinner held on Saturday at the RAF Club to mark the 30th anniversary of the graduation of No 244 initial Officer Training Course at RAF Church Fenton.

Sir William Mars-Jones

A memorial service for Sir William Mars-Jones, MBE, LLD, will be held in Gray's Inn Chapel on Monday, March 1, at 5pm.

Canford School

Canford has made Sixth Form *awards to the following* who will enter the school in September 1999: Sarah Covington, Marie-Louise Craven, Hannah Kemlo, Louise Mathews, Cristina Ponda, Clare Sanderson, Caroline Spencer, Anna Warrington.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: St Edmund Campion, Jesuit martyr, London, 1540; Robert Boyle, chemist, Lismore, Co Waterford, 1627; Joseph Lagrange, mathematician, Turin, 1736; Robert Burns, poet, Alloway, 1759; Sir Francis Burdett, politician, 1770; William McGillivray, naturalist, Old Aberdeen, 1796; John Arbuthnot Fisher, 1st Baron Fisher, Admiral of the Fleet, Ceylon, 1841; William Somerset Maugham, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1874; *Virginia Woolf*, novelist and critic, London, 1882; Wilhelm Furtwängler, conductor, Berlin, 1886; Witold Lutoslawski, composer, Warsaw, 1913.

DEATHS: Robert Burton, author of *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Oxford, 1640; William Shield, composer, London, 1829; Dorothy Wordsworth, writer, Rydal, Cumbria, 1855; Frederic Leighton, Lord Leighton, President of the Royal Academy 1878-96, Kensington, 1896; Ouida (pseudonym of Louise de la Ramée), novelist, Viareggio, Italy, 1908.

Nature notes

ON WARM days last week, the first chaffinches were singing, ten days or a fortnight earlier than in most years. They sit halfway up a tree, thrusting their pink chests forward; their song is a run of bright notes, quickening in pace until it ends in a twirling *flourish*. The first goldcrests were also singing, both in solitary yew trees and in fir *plantations*: their song, which is like a very quiet sewing machine at work, is not often heard until March. More song-thrushes have come into song: they are particularly vocal at dawn and dusk. When they fly down from a tree you sometimes get a glimpse of the fine orange feathers under their wings. Kestrels hover over the fields, keeping clear of snowy areas: they drop down to snatch up their prey, which in winter often includes earthworms as well as voles.

Winter heliotrope that has escaped from gardens is nowadays quite common at the edge of streams: its lilac flowers are now open, and their scent, like vanilla, attracts early flies. The glossy, spear-like leaves of the bluebells are coming through in damp woods, and daisies are in flower on lawns, often among the opening crocuses.
DJM



The Duke of Northumberland in front of Alnwick Castle, which has been home to the Percy family since 1309

Millennium partygoers breach castle walls

By A CORRESPONDENT

THE Duke of Northumberland is to make history by renting out his family seat for a millennium party. It will be the first time that Alnwick Castle has been occupied by paying tenants.

The 12th Duke, Ralph Percy, 41, will not be vetting the party organisers: it is assumed that anyone who can afford the undisclosed, but substantial, fee will be of suitable stock.

As well as the castle, which is set in 100,000 acres, the duke has other property to let. Revellers may also make use of Syon House, set in 200 acres overlooking the Thames on the southwestern outskirts of London.

His shooting lodge, Burncastle, near Lauder in Berwickshire, will be similarly let. All the money raised will be spent on restoring furniture and fine art in the castle and at Syon House.

Alnwick Castle, home to the Percy family since 1309, is brimming with art treasures. The guests, who may number up to 21, will have full use of the state rooms, which are lined with paintings by Titian, Van Dyck and Turner. They will also be able to walk in the grounds, designed by Capability Brown, and have the opportunity to go foxhunting or pheasant shooting.

According to an advertisement posted on the Internet, the duke's personal staff will be on hand to assist and welcome guests.

The duke, his wife, Jane, 40, and their four children will be staying elsewhere in Northumberland.

Memorial services

Sir John Stephenson
The Lord Chancellor was represented by Mr James Goudie, QC, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Stephenson, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, held on Thursday at the Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of the Temple, officiated, assisted by the Rev David Paton.

Mr Daniel Stephenson, son, and Mrs Mary Stephenson, daughter, read the lessons. Mr David Stephenson, son, read from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Mrs Andrew Sykes, daughter, sang Handel's *Forever Blessed be Thy HolyName.*

The Master of the Rolls, the President of the Family Division and the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court attended.

Among others present were:

The Hon Lady Stephenson (widow), Mr Andrew Sykes (son-in-law), Mr and Mrs Nicholas Ashcroft, Miss Polly Wines, Miss Lucy Wines, Daniel Wines and Amelia and Matthew Sykes, grandchildren, Joseph Ashcroft (great grandson), the Hon Mrs Paul Asquith (sister-in-law).

Mr Ben Stephenson, Mrs R Cavendish, Mr Mervyn Streatfeild, Miss Rose Streatfeild, Mr Tim Stephenson, Mr Guy Stephenson, Mrs Nicholas Troup, Mr and Mrs Jonathan Asquith, Mr Rupert Asquith, Mr and Mrs Christopher Talbot, Ms Alexandra Asquith, Mr Philippe Wines and other members of the family.

Viscount and Viscountess Hood, the Treasurer of the Inner Temple and Lady Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Brougshane, Lord Sackville, the Dowager Lady Cottesloe, Lord Cottesloe, Lady Campbell of Croy, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, QC, Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, KG, and Lady Richardson.

Lady Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Hussey of North Bradley and Lady Susan Hussey, Lord Goff of Chieveley, FBA, Lord *Oliver of Aylmerton*, Lord and Lady Hobhouse of Woodborough, Lord Wilberforce, QC, Lord and Lady Dunboyne, Lady Ackner.

Sir Patrick O'Connor, Sir Brian and Lady Neill, Lord Justice and Lady Swinton Thomas, *Sir Robin Dunn, Lord Justice and* Lady May, Sir Christopher and Lady Slade, Lord Justice Schiemann, Sir Francis and Lady Purchas, Lady Roskill, Lady Browne, Sir John and Lady Balcombe, Lord Justice *Pill, Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice* and Lady Hirst.

Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Rose, Lord Justice Evans, Sir Patrick Russell, Lord Justice Thorpe, Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Nourse, Sir David Croom-Johnson, Lady Sarah Wright, Lady Jane Howard, the Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham, the Hon Mrs Jean Strutt, the *Hon Mrs David Erskine, the Hon Mrs* Helena Bayley, the Hon Mrs Hammond-Maude, the Hon Gerard Noel, the Hon Mrs Justice Hogg.

Sir John Riddell, Lady Swinnerton Dyer, Sir Michael and Lady Turner, Sir Kenneth and Lady Hollings, Sir Christopher and Lady French, Mr Justice Rix, Sir Edward Ford, Sir Ralph and Lady Kilner Brown, Mr Justice and Lady Popplewell, Mr Justice and Lady Sumner, Dame Frances Campbell-Preston, Sir Cecil Clothier, QC, Sir Charles McCullough, Sir Godfray Le Quesne, QC, Lady Cobb, Lady Sykes, Lady Paget, Mr Justice Morland, Mr Justice Toulson (Presiding Judge, Western Circuit).

The Master of the Supreme Court and Lady Harriet Tennant, the Treasurer of Middle Temple and Lady Kennedy, Sir Patrick Reilly, His Honour E F Monier-Williams, His Honour Peter and Mrs Macnair, Judge Henry Pownall, QC, His Honour Edgar Fay, QC, and Mrs Fay, His Honour Bruce Galpin, the Recorder of Bristol and *Mrs Dyer*, His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, His Honour J R Main, QC, Judge Adams, His Honour J R Whitley, Judge Goodman, Judge Toulmin, QC, His Honour and Mrs A J Brackett-Ord, His Honour and Mrs John Clay, Judge Baxter, QC.

Canon Eric James, Mr and Mrs John Grigg, Mr Peter Boydell, QC, Mr Petre Crowder, QC, and the Hon Mrs Crowder, Mr Peter D Post, Mr Gordon Cuthbert, Mr John Daly, QC, Mr P W E Taylor, QC, Mr J F Willmer, QC, Professor and Mrs Anthony Mellows, Mr Harvey McGregor, QC, Mr Edward Nugee, QC, and Mrs Nugee, Mr *Dermod O'Brien*, QC, Mr Michael de Navarro, QC, Mr Benjamin, QC.

Mr William Harris, QC, Mr John Spokes, QC, Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, Mr Robin Simpson, QC, and Mrs Simpson, Mr David John, Mr Timothy Preston, QC, Mr Peter Susman, QC, Mr Nicholas Paines, QC, Rupert Paines Mr Hugh Patterson, Mr and Mrs William Rickett, Mr Henry de Lotbinière, Mr Peter Jennings, Mr and Mrs Richard Ollard, Mr John Williams, Mr *Christopher McCall*, QC, and Mrs McCall, Mr Robert Boyd, Mr David Ashcroft, Mr and Mrs David Tudway Quilter, Mrs Prunella Briance.

Mr Alastair Stewart-Richardson (7 Kings Bench Walk), the Worshipful Nigel Seed (Chancellor of the Diocese of Leicester), Mr Michael Sherrard (Director, Middle Temple Advocacy), Mr Dermod O'Brien, Mr Michael de Navarro, QC, and Mr Benjamin Browne, QC, (2 Temple Gardens), the Reader of Inner Temple, Brigadier Peter Little (Sub-Treasurer, Inner Temple), and many other friends and former colleagues.

Sir Alexander and Lady Cairncross
A service of thanksgiving for the lives of Sir Alexander Cairncross, Chancellor of Glasgow University, 1972-1996, and Lady Cairncross was held on Saturday in the university Chapel.

The Very Rev Emeritus Professor Robert Davidson officiated and Professor Sir Graeme Davies, Principal, bade welcome.

Sir William Fraser, Chancellor, Professor Janet McDonald, Professor of Drama, Mr David Cairncross, son, and the Rev John P. Cubie read the lessons.

Professor Sir Laurence Hunter, Professor of Applied Economics, gave an address. Members of the family, friends, former Principals, members of the General Council, the Senate, the University Court and other members of Staff and Students were among those present.

Mr T.D. Mathew
Requiem Mass for Mr Theobald David Mathew, a former Windsor Herald of Arms, was celebrated by Abbot Christopher, cousin, of Glenstal Abbey, Murroe, County Limerick, on Saturday at Blackfriars, Oxford. Mr Desmond Maxwell and Mr Tommy Mathew, cousin, read the lessons. Abbot Christopher preached the Homily. Members of the family, friends and colleagues from the College of Arms were among those present.

Mr Michael Samuelson
A celebration of the life of Mr Michael Samuelson, a special trustee to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and a former *Chief Barker of the Variety* Club of Great Britain, was held yesterday at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square.

Mr Kriss Akabusi, Mr Barry Cryer, Mr Chris Eubank, Mr Patrick Hayes, Mr and Mrs John Ratcliff, Mr Andrew Sachs, Miss Emma Samms (daughter), Mr Richard Samuelson (son), Sir Sydney Samuelson (brother), Miss Tessa Sanderson, Sir Anthony Tippet, Mr Bill Weir, Miss Fiona O'Neill, Miss Sara Rhodes and Mr Keel Watson performed an on-stage *programme produced and* directed by Mr Ernest Maxin.

Among those present were:

Members of the family, representatives of HM Government, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, the British Society of Cinematographers, the Guild of British Camera Technicians, Sidlier, the British Film Commission, BECTU, BAFTA, the British Board of Film Classification, the Variety Club of Great Britain, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, the British Cinematography Scholarship Trust, the National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare, and many other friends.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M. Ardouin
and Miss D.L. McNutt
The engagement is announced between James Matthew, elder son of Mr Julian Ardouin, of Hatch End, Middlesex, and Mrs Janet Miles, of Ruislip Manor, Middlesex, and Dany Louise, only daughter of Mr Danny McNutt, of Denham, Buckinghamshire, and Mrs Christina McNutt, of Ruislip, *Middlesex*.

Mr P.E. Bateman
and Miss E.L. Davies
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Dr and Mrs Nigel Bateman, of Dulwich, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Davies, of Chelsea.

Mr H.M.R. Bowles
and Miss E.J. Foster
The engagement is announced between Huw, son of the late Mr Donald Bowles and of Mrs Pauline Bowles, of Newbridge, Gwent, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas G. Foster, of Colden Common, Hampshire.

Dr M.L. Buchanan
and Miss K.E. Weston
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs R. Buchanan, of Hudson, Ohio, USA, and Kate, daughter of Dr and *Mrs* M.E. Weston, of Needingworth, Cambridgeshire.

Mr B.G. Dear
and Miss E.J. Bradley
The engagement is announced between Benjamin George, youngest son of the late Mr G.C. Dear and of *Mrs* Dear, of Saxby-All-Saints, Lincolnshire, and Emma Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs R.D. Bradley, of Hunstrete, North Somerset.

Mr J.E. Lascelles
and Miss J. Elias-Rilwan
The engagement is announced, and the marriage will take place on Saturday, January 30, 1999, between James Edward Lascelles, of Bayswater, London, and Joy Elias-Rilwan, of Pimlico, London.

Mr C-F. Mejia
and Miss A. Salaverria
The engagement is announced between Carlos-Felipe, son of Mr and Mrs Carlos Mejia, of Chelsea, London, and Alejandrina, daughter of Mrs Nora Caceres de Poma, of El Salvador.

Mr T.I.W. Head
and Miss K.A. Amos
The engagement is announced between Toby, elder son of Lady Lewinton and stepson of Sir Christopher Lewinton, of Letcombe Bassett, Oxfordshire, and Mr William Head, of Gaucin, Spain, and Kathryn Anne, youngest daughter *of* Mrs Eva Laing, of Esher, Surrey, and the late Mr Robert Reed Amos, of Sevenoaks, Kent.

Mr P.B. Irving and
Señorita M-B. Sampedro-Perez
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Dr J.B. and Dr M.A. Irving, of Bonshaw Tower, Dumfriesshire, and Maria-Begoña, only daughter of Señor and Señora J.A. Sampedro-Perez, *of* Brussels, Belgium.

Mr C.A. Krüger
and Miss A.I. Valencak
The engagement is announced between Carl, eldest son of Mr and Mrs *Kit Krüger, of Lurgashall,* Sussex, and Agnes, eldest daughter of the late Professor Emo Valencak and of Mrs Valencak, of Vienna, Austria.

Mr N.L. Miller
and Miss J.M. Montgomery
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Professor and Mrs John Miller, of Blackheath, London, and Juliana, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Montgomery, of Bath.

Mr A.J. Persson
and Miss E.S. de C. Orchard
The engagement is announced between *Adam, younger son of the* Right Rev William and Mrs Persson, of Marnhull, Dorset, and Eva, twin daughter of Mr and Mrs William Orchard, of Southminster, Essex.

Mr D.C.F. Wight
and Miss L.A. Gairns
The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and *Mrs Robin Wight, of Edinburgh,* and Lesley, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Gairns, of Hong Kong.

Marriages

Mr A.K.R. Hampel
and Miss K.L. Anthony
The marriage took place on Saturday at Windsor Parish Church of Mr Andrew Hampel, eldest son of *Sir* Ronald and Lady Hampel, of Lodsworth, West Sussex, to Miss Kate Anthony, younger daughter of Mrs David Rosser, of Windsor, and the late Mr R.B.E. Anthony. Canon Jeffery Whale officiated.

The bride, who was given in *marriage* by Mr David Rosser, was attended by Harriet Elton, Elizabeth Elton, Saskia Naylor, Freddie Hampel, Victoria Brewer, George Cullen, Miss Sarah Elton and Miss Alice Whately. Mr David Atkinson was best man.

A reception was held at Highclere Castle and the honeymoon will be spent in India.

Flight Lieutenant R.L. Morgan
and Miss C.E. Filmer
The marriage took place on Saturday, January 23, 1999, at St George's, Shoeburyness, of Flight Lieutenant Lee Morgan and Miss Catherine Filmer.

Birthdays today

The Rev Professor [illegible], FBA; [illegible] Cory Aquino, former President of The Philippines, 66; Sir Tom Arnold, former MP, 52; Mr Raymond Baxter, writer and broadcaster, 77; *Viscount Blakenham, 61; the Most* Rev Dermot Clifford, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 60; Vice-Admiral Sir David Clutterbuck, 86; the Earl of Coventry, 65; Miss Emma Freud, broadcaster, 37; Mr David Ginola, footballer, 32; Sir Paul Girolami, former chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 73; Sir Brian Hayes, former Deputy Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 59; Professor Sir Geoffrey Lloyd, FBA, Master, Darwin College, Cambridge, 66; *Sir James Mellon, former diplomat*, 70; Sir David Nicholas, former chairman and chief executive, ITN, 69; Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, 66; Mr Tom Paulin, poet, 50; Professor D.D. Raphael, philosopher, 83; Air Commodore A.A. Reed, former director, RAF Nursing Services, 69; Mr David Shattock, former Chief Constable, Avon and Somerset, 63; Mr Tom Shebbeare, chief executive, The Prince's Trust and The Royal Jubilee Trusts, 47; Miss Angela Thorne, actress, 60; Professor Edward *Ullendorff, FBA, Professor* Emeritus, Semitic Languages, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, 79; Admiral Sir Peter White, 80.

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BIRTHS

HIRTZEL - On 1st January 1999 to Alexandra Louise (née Musker) and Simon, a son, William Michael Ransome, a brother for Rosa.

PACKE - On 21st January to Aloysa and Andrew, twins James and Katharine (Kitty), a brother and *sister for Olivia and* Freddie.

PUZIO - On January 22nd 1999, at Odstock Hospital, *Salisbury, a daughter*, Bethany Hannah, to Rebecca (neé Hamilton-Fletcher) and Jan.

SMAIL - On 13th January 1999 to Camilla (née Wynne-James) and Christopher, a son (Milo Wynne Merlin), a brother *for Eloise*, Jack and Daisy.

DEATHS

ARBER - Nicholas on 20 January, suddenly and unexpectedly, during a short stay in hospital. Beloved husband of Gilly and wonderful father of Adam and Oliver who will miss him forever. Loving son of Pat and dear brother of Mary, William and Robert. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Swinbrook near Burford, Oxon on Friday 29 January at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

BARKER - On January 20th at Brighton General Hospital after a valiant fight following a stroke, Mary Burch Barker MBE, aged 91. Master weaver, teacher, lecturer and journalist. Beloved sister, aunt, great aunt and great great aunt and friend to many. Funeral at 2.30pm on Tuesday 2nd February at The Church *of* St John, Preston, Brighton followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to the Martlets Hospice c/o SE Skinner and Sons, 145 Lewes Road, Brighton, Sussex BN2 3LG. Tel 01273 607446.

BESTON-SIDEBOTTOM - Sylvia, much loved wife of the late Derek, peacefully on 22nd January, in France, [illegible] beloved Country. She will be sadly *missed by her many* relatives and friends on both sides of the Channel. Funeral will be held in Alba La Romaine, France.

COPPIN - On January 18th peacefully in a *Hastings* nursing home, Violet Dorothy aged 90 years, *wife of the late Harry* Coppin. Funeral service at Hastings Crematorium 12.30 pm on Wednesday February 3rd. All enquiries to Hinkley Funeral Service, 50 Mount *Pleasant* Road, Hastings 01424 722461.

COX - Joan Grace of Chiswick, peacefully on the 21st January aged 81. Mother of Rosemary, Barbara, Caroline and Penny, and grandmother of Mark, Roxanna and Cola. Cremation at Mortlake on Monday 1st February at 12.30pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o TH Sanders and Sons, 447 Upper Richmond Road West, SW14 7PR. Tel:0181 876 4673.

GALWEY - *Joan peacefully* after a short illness at Southwold Hospital, Suffolk aged 83 years. A dear wife of the late Geoffrey, loving mother and grandmother. Service at St Andrews' Church, Walberswick on Thursday 28th January at 12.45 pm, followed by cremation at Gorleston Crematorium 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Royal British Legion c/o The Co-Operative Funeral Service 5 High Street, Saxmundham.

GREENLY - Diana Lilian on January 21st 1999, peacefully in Spain. Funeral, family and friends, 2p.m. Thursday 28th January at Holy Trinity, Bembridge, I.O.W. Flowers to Weaver Bros., Lane End, Bembridge. Tel: 01983 872598.

GRIFFITHS - Peter John. On 21st January, peacefully at home, aged 73. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist Church, Stanbridge to be arranged. *Any flowers or enquiries* please to S R Dillamore Ltd, 16 Old Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds LU7 7RF. Tel (01525) 372210

HALL - Eric Finden, peacefully at home on *January 22, 1999 aged 85.* Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. Family cremation service. Thanksgiving Service to be arranged later. Donations in his memory to R.N.L.I.

KESTENBAUM - Ralph died 20th January 1999. We mourn the passing of our dear friend and colleague. Our deepest sympathies to his family, from all at Gerald Metals.

LAURENCE - Jessica, precious wife of George, darling mother of Tom, Cathy and Ben. Beloved daughter of John and the late Ann Chenevix Trench, sister of Max. Suddenly and peacefully at home on Friday 22nd January, aged 49. Funeral to be held at All Saint's Church, Coleshill. Tel: H C Grimstead 01494 2285044 for time and date. Family flowers only; donations if desired to N.S.P.C.C.

LEDERER - Jules W on 21st January 1999 aged 81 years, following a long illness. A private cremation will take place in Newcastle Upon Tyne.

LEES - George Howard Vincent of St Mawes, former legal adviser for M & S, died peacefully on 20th January aged 76 at Duchy Hospital after a mercifully short illness bravely borne. Loving husband, beloved father, grandfather and brother. Much loved and respected by his family, friends and colleagues. Funeral service at St. Just-in-Roseland Friday January 29th 2.30pm followed by private cremation. Family *flowers only. Donations* for R.N.L.I., Cancer Research or Cornwall Macmillan Service, c/o Terence Tregunna, Funeral Director, 49 Kenwyn Street, Truro.

ROBERTS - On 17th January 1999, peacefully at the Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow. Reverend David Donald Roberts TD, BA, CF., aged 77, beloved husband of the late Rowena and loving father of David and Andrew and his wife Lorraine. Devoted Grandpa to Charlotte, Helena and Katherine. Funeral at Chelmsford Crematorium on Tuesday *2nd February at 12 noon.* Family flowers only. All enquiries (including donations to The Stroke Association, if desired) to Bonners Funeral Directors, High Street, Chipping Ongar, Essex.

SEELY - Josephine *Wilhelmina Philippa*, peacefully on Saturday 9th January 1999, aged 91. Beloved aunt of Johnny and great-aunt of Sophie Van Haeften. The funeral has taken place.

SMITH - Peter Neville. D.F.C. Peacefully at home on *Jan* 22nd, aged 76. Much loved husband of Prudence and loving father of Gerard, Selina, Fenella, Petrina and Lucilla, and grandfather. Funeral service at St. Catherine's Church Birtles on Friday Jan 29th at 2.00 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to Rosemount Mental Health Services, Macclesfield. *Marie Curie Nurses. C/o* J.W. Brocklehurst, Prestbury. Tel: 01625 829 232

WILSON - *peacefully in* Glasgow on 15th January 1999, Robert Menzies Ricardo aged 78. Private cremation has taken place.

WYNNE - Sydney E.R., passed away at home on January 20th. Dearly loved husband of *Que*. Funeral at Putney Vale Crematorium at 4.00pm on 28th January. *Flowers to* Ashton Funeral Service, 140 Alexandra Road, Wimbledon SW19 7JY.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

KIRKWOOD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Janet Kirkwood of Longney, Gloucester will be held at Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 13th March at 2.00pm.

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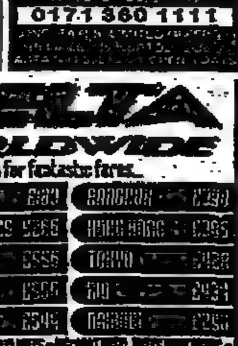
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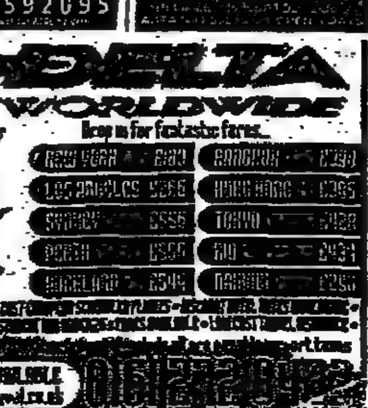
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LEGAL NOTICES

ADFORCE DIRECT LIMITED
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The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Meetings of Creditors of the above named Companies will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 28th January 1999 at 11.00 am, 11.30 am and 12.00 noon respectively for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
The Resolutions proposed at the Meeting of Creditors may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator or Liquidators' are to be remunerated. The Meeting may also receive information about, or be asked to approve, the cost of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting of Creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meetings must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place London W1H 3FF not later than 12.00 noon on the 27th January 1999.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF before the meetings, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Companies creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the Meetings stated above.
Dated this 19th day of January 1999
By Order of the Board
G Hunt, Director

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TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:
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LEGAL NOTICES

AIRLINES LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 3 February 1999 at 11.30am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
The Resolutions proposed at the Meeting of Creditors may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator or Liquidators' are to be remunerated. The Meeting may also receive information about, or be asked to approve, the cost of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting of Creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the registered office - Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF not later than 12 noon on 2 February 1999.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London, W1H 3FF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated this 19th of January 1999
By Order of the Board
D Furr
Director

ISOVEL GROUP LIMITED
The Insolvency Act 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF on 10 February 1999 at 11.30 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at their registered office - Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF not later than 12.00 noon on 9 February 1999.
For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF before the meeting, a statement giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed.
Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Sherlock House, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated this 19th day of January 1999
By Order of the Board
I L S Tindale, Director

OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD LEWIN

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, GCB, LVO, DSC, Chief of the Defence Staff, 1979-82, died on January 23 aged 78. He was born on November 19, 1920.

As Chief of the Defence Staff in 1982, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin was a vital professional adviser at the daily meetings of Margaret Thatcher's War Cabinet during the series of military operations that resulted in the recovery of the Falkland Islands after the Argentine invasion. His greatest contributions were his clarity of thought, which helped the politicians to formulate their objectives, and his realism. Because he had seen much action at sea in the Second World War, he was a steadying influence when the all-too-frequent bad news from the battle zone rattled the less-experienced members of the War Cabinet.

The state of affairs at that time was that for many years British defence policy had forsaken the intention — and increasingly the capability — to conduct an opposed amphibious landing on enemy-held territory without the support of allies. Recovery of the Falklands would confront all these things at a range of 8,000 miles from home bases, in worsening seasonal weather, opposed by a modern land-based air force, and with a task force that lacked an airborne early warning radar system. These factors were compounded by a series of complex political issues which had to be resolved successfully by the War Cabinet if the United Kingdom was to retain the support of the Americans — already bruised in their South American relations — and even more importantly, the authority conferred by United Nations resolutions against a breach of international order.

Throughout the twists and turns of these processes, Lewin was able to secure centralised operational control over the conduct of the military campaign and to operate a surprisingly short and uncomplicated link from the Cabinet through the tri-Service headquarters at Northwood to the task force. His profound grasp of the tactical and technical issues enabled him to lobby hard for licence to use the task force to the greatest effect. Supported by the militarily experienced Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, he was able authoritatively to advocate the specific rules of engagement which, while allowing for the political niceties, would enable the task force to protect itself and to carry out its mission.

Despite worries about the diversion of resources, Lewin proposed an early retaking of South Georgia as a contribution to graduated pressure on the Argentine junta as well as a useful test of naval competence. His iron nerves were never needed as much as when this initial operation, meeting extreme weather, nearly came to grief among the waters and glaciers of Grytviken. The historical evidence on the rest of the campaign, including Lewin's post-conflict appearances before House of Commons select committees, attests to his wise judgment of such vexed questions as the contradictory Total Exclusion Zone and the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*.

Terence Thornton Lewin entered the Royal Navy in 1939 from the Judd School at Tonbridge. His first wartime seagoing appointment was as a midshipman in the battleship *Valiant* where he experienced several of the early battles of the Mediterranean campaign. In January 1942 he joined the Tribal class destroyer *Ashanti* as the gunnery officer and during the next two years as a sub-lieutenant and young lieutenant was mentioned in dispatches three times and awarded a DSC.

In early 1942 *Ashanti* accompanied two Arctic convoys to Murmansk before being diverted to the Mediterranean in August of that year to take part in Operation Pedestal, the hardest-fought of the series of convoys to Malta. Back in the Arctic in September, *Ashanti* was part of a large "fighting escort" of 16 destroyers protecting convoys PQ18 and QP14 to and from Murmansk. QP14 contained ships that had survived the tragic scattering and destruction of the previous PQ17 convoy. Of the 40 ships that set out, 13 were sunk by U-boats and massed dive-bombers. The destroyer *Somali* was damaged and taken in tow by *Ashanti* but after a long, slow and hazardous voyage a violent storm caused *Somali* suddenly to break up and sink with the loss of 35 of her 80 remaining crew.

During 1943 and up to the D-Day landings in June 1944, *Ashanti* distinguished herself in a number of brisk night actions against German convoys and their escorts in the English Channel. As part of the western covering force during the D-Day campaign, *Ashanti* sank with torpedoes one of four German destroyers which had sailed out from Brest to try to disrupt the invasion.

After the war Lewin held a number of seagoing posts. He passed the Staff Course and then commanded the destroyer *Corunna* with distinction. He was always a keen sportsman and represented the Royal Navy at athletics and rugby.

He was appointed LVO after a tour as second-in-command of the Royal Yacht *Britannia*.

In the rank of captain, he commanded the Dartmouth Training Squadron and subsequently the aircraft carrier *Hermes* in the Indian Ocean at the time of the 1967 Arab-Israeli Six-Day War and the withdrawal from Aden in 1967-68. This was an arduous period of duty during which high morale and outstanding operational performance on board the aircraft carrier were maintained by Lewin's particular brand of humane leadership.

Promoted rear-admiral in 1968, he was successively appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy), Second-in-Command Far East Fleet and Vice-Chief of Naval Staff before becoming, in 1973, C-in-C Fleet, in 1975 C-in-C Naval Home Command and then, in 1977, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. He was appointed KCB in 1973 and GCB in 1976.

The perennial postwar difficulty of matching defence resources to commitments was particularly severe during Lewin's tenure as First Sea Lord, but he was able to initiate a series of "group deployments", intending, as he put it, "to preserve worldwide expertise among our officers and men and the chance to exercise with non-Nato navies, rather than become mesmerised by the Eastern Atlantic". His greatest achievement was to preserve this worldwide capability in spite of a political climate that called for withdrawal from overseas commitments and a reduction to what were seen as Nato essentials.

As Chief of Defence Staff Lewin was heavily involved with the decision to replace the Polaris-based strategic deterrent with the Trident missile system.

His tri-Service impartiality was much tested by the review, instituted by the Secretary of State for Defence, John Nott, in 1981, which again tried to match a realistic defence programme to the budget. The review's most contentious strategic proposal was to inflict wholesale reductions on the Navy's surface fleet.

These decisions were fortunately reversed by the Falklands War and the realisation that navies have an inherent flexibility which may not be revealed by accountants' scenario-based analysis.

Nevertheless, Lewin's experiences led him to strengthen the position of the Chief of Defence Staff, who thereafter would not be constitutionally bound to offer ministers the consensus opinion of the three Service chiefs, but give his own defence advice, as had been done during the Falklands conflict.

People who worked for and with Terry Lewin uniformly remarked on his acute intellect, his concentration on essentials and his impeccable judgment, but he was also widely known for his great courtesy towards all ranks. He never, as it is all too easy to do in moments of great stress, lost his temper or his self-control. Another great strength was that he always accorded respect and attention to the views of others, irrespective of their ultimate value.

In retirement Lewin brought these qualities to bear on a number of charitable and other works. His great enthusiasm was for the naval history of the 18th century and he was an acknowledged authority on the achievements of Captain James Cook in particular. As a trustee of the National Maritime Museum and subsequently as chairman from 1987, Lewin put his weight behind a successful £12 million English Heritage lottery bid and was instrumental in driving forward a radical modernisation programme affecting not only the use and repair of the buildings but the mounting of major exhibitions all over the world.

Among his other activities, he was president of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society, the George Cross Island Association and a council member of the White Ensign Association. He was an Elder Brother of Trinity House from 1975. Lewin was created a life peer 1982 and appointed KG in 1983.

He is survived by his wife Jane Branch-Evans, whom he married in 1944 when she was serving in the Wrens, and by their two sons and daughter.



Lewin: vital role during the Falklands conflict of 1982

LESLIE FRENCH

Leslie French, actor and director, died on January 21 aged 94. He was born on April 23, 1904.

AMONG audiences who were fortunate enough to see him over a long stage career which had begun in the Twenties and carried on well into the Seventies, not to speak of the television work he did in the Eighties, Leslie French will be remembered especially for three Shakespearean performances: Puck, Ariel, and Feste. These, at the apogee of his career, were considered to be definitive. In particular, his Ariel was, when first seen in 1922, daring in the extreme in its near-nakedness (which drew protests from some quarters) and in the fact that it was the first time a man had played the part since Victorian times. It was a performance which, in 1931, inspired Eric Gill to create his sculpture of Prospero and Ariel for the façade of the newly opened Broadcasting House in Portland Place, a work in which the undraped contours of Ariel were modelled on those of the youthful French.

Critics also praised him for his performance as the Attendant Spirit in Milton's *Comus*. It was a part he played often during the 1930s, since Milton's masque, directed by Robert Atkins, was generally to be found in the repertoire of the *Regent's Park Open Air Theatre*.

Expert as singer and dancer, French trained himself in the Ben Greet touring companies where, from extreme youth, he showed an innate sense of poetry and a quick response to Shakespeare. He was a small, lithe, often impish figure with an uncommon nimbleness of wit and movement. Alas, after leaving Greet he often had to waste these qualities on routine musical comedy.

His high moment came during an engagement for a single Old Vic production in the winter of 1929. Then, in partnership with John Gielgud's *Oberon*, he appeared as a Puck of irresistible mooncast mischief, remembered for its absolute fidelity to Shakespeare and for the spoilt-child intonation of "I go; I go: look how I go!" when ordered to be "faster than the wind". Later he had a complete Vic season, and soon afterwards began the Regent's Park period that for several seasons exercised all his gifts to their full. Harcourt Williams wrote of his Puck: "He put the Vic audiences for ever in his pocket."

Leslie French was born at Bromley, Kent. He was a boy singer from the age of ten before joining Ben Greet in 1918 at the age of 14 and remaining with the company for six years. Later, with a sound grounding of Shakespeare behind him, he did some musicals, and was particularly fond of playing Asticot, a part he always recalled affectionately, in a musical version of *The Beloved Vagabond* (Duke of York's, 1927).

But it was during his eight months at the the Old Vic in 1930-31 that he had a real chance to use his fun, vocal clarity, and, when needed, his pathos and other-worldliness. He was, principally, Feste (at the opening of Sadler's Wells) and Ariel, Eros (in *Antony and Cleopatra*), and — playing to John Gielgud — the Fool in *King Lear*.

After leaving the Old Vic French played in A. P. Herbert's operetta, *Derby Day*, at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and in Rodney Ackland's *Strange Orchestra* at the St Martin's. There followed the sequence of half-a-dozen Regent's Park summers. As he had done with so many of his Shakespearean roles, he made the part of the Attendant Spirit of *Comus* peculiarly his own, particularly in the way he delivered the last invocation: "Sabrina fair, listen where thou art sitting. Under the glassy, cool, translucent wave." On other occasions he went back to the Vic (1934) for an Ariel with Harcourt Williams, acted in a Cochran revue, *Home and Beauty*, and as Swinburne in a mediocre piece, *Rossetti*, at the Arts. Twice in the prewar period he directed for the Oxford Union Dramatic Society: *Much Ado About Nothing* (1938) and *The Tempest* (1939).

During the Second World War French joined the International Ballet Company, appearing in the title-role and directing *Everyman* and, at the Lyric, playing Feste in a ballet of *Twelfth Night*. In 1946 he directed a *Comus* with himself as the Attendant Spirit. He would have three further Open Air seasons (1951, 1952, and 1958) and a performance some distance from Shakespeare, in the character of Richard, Duke of Gloucester in a chronicle, *The Sun of York*, which was done at the Royal Court in 1955, and sought earnestly to extenuate Richard III.

Much of his later career he occupied in directing Shakespeare at various places, notably in South Africa where he had a considerable impact on the theatre through his founding Maynardville, an open-air theatre in Cape Town, in the 1950s. This arose from an invitation he received from two South African actresses, Celia Sonneburg and Rene Ahrenson, who asked him to go there and do an outdoor *The Taming of the Shrew* for them. Shortly before he was due to sail French received a panicky telegram from the pair saying: "Got cold feet, don't come!" Nothing deterred, he telegraphed back: "Buy a hot-water bottle" and continued with his passage.

There followed a succession of triumphant summers in Cape Town where, besides Puck, Touchstone and roles normally associated with him, he tackled less likely parts such as Duncan and Shylock. His production of *The Merchant of Venice* broke all box office records for South Africa at that time and he also directed in the open air at Port Elizabeth, and at theatres in Bloemfontein and Welkom, a small Orange Free State town to the north of Bloemfontein, where he opened the Ernest Oppenheimer Theatre in 1968 with a production of *The Tempest*. His casts and audiences at Maynardville were always multiracial and he was the mentor and teacher of many generations of young actors and actresses to whom he imparted his abiding love of Shakespeare.

In Britain his later productions included *Twelfth Night* in the Great Hall at Hampton Court in 1964, with himself as Feste. A thorough professional, he broadcast and acted in films and on television, his last role being as the ailing Noddy in a TV version of Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective* in 1986. But he really belonged to the theatre and especially to the plays and parts that were for so long associated with his performance of them.

Leslie French was unmarried.





French and the BBC sculpture of Ariel which he inspired

JOHN GOLDING

John Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1969-86, died on January 20 aged 67 from complications following a heart operation. He was born on March 9, 1931.

JOHN GOLDING was the largely forgotten sergeant major in Labour's long march back to electoral respectability and power. After the defeats of James Callaghan and Michael Foot, he rallied the right-wing troops in the Commons, recaptured Labour's national executive from the Left, helped to drive the Militant Tendency from the party and was a powerful Kinnock ally in the early attempts at modernisation.

Golding was a short, scruffy man who was happy to receive a newspaper nomination as the worst-dressed MP in the Commons. But while he would have been out of place in today's new Labour salons, he was in his element in the conspiracies of old Labour's Right.

He was master of every trick in the political trade as his enemies — and he had many — were forced to admit. Even when his left-wing critics seemed to be winning in his constituency, he left the Commons at a time of his choosing to take a key trade union post, with his second wife Llin succeeding him as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

John Golding was born in Birmingham, where his father was working as a chef. After primary education he went to Chester Grammar School, which he left at 16 to become a Civil Service clerk. He had joined the Labour Party while at school and he was soon active in the trade union movement.

As a result the Post Office Engineering Union made him a researcher, sent him to the London School of Economics and then appointed him education officer. Although he was sponsored by his union, he failed in several attempts to obtain a seat until a by-election at Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1969. This was caused by the death of Stephen Swingler, regarded by some as a one-time fellow-traveller, but the right wing Golding had no difficulty in obtaining the nomination in a trade union-dominated selection conference. It was then that he met Llinos Lewis, daughter of Ness Edwards, Attlee's Postmaster-General, who was his campaign driver. Both were married with families, Golding since 1958 to Thelma Gwillym. Eleven years later, in 1980, with both marriages dissolved, they were married.

In the Commons Golding made unusually rapid progress. Almost at once he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Eric Varley, the Minister for Technology, and after the Wilson defeat he became an Opposition Whip. Callaghan gave him a ministerial job as Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Employment, which was probably the role he most enjoyed.

But he also had great pleasure in his attempts to delay the privatisation of British Telecom, notably with a speech in committee which lasted for eleven hours and 15 minutes — a record which still stands as the rules were changed to prevent any repetition.

In 1986 he left the Commons aged 55, to become general secretary of the new National Communications Union, formed from the merger between British Telecom's clerical and engineering unions. But two years into his five year contract, a Sunday paper published allegations about his relations with a prostitute. He refused to comment, to avoid embarrassing his wife, but hostile motions were submitted to his annual conference, where he was asked to resign. Golding refused, as stubborn as ever, but eventually took early retirement after an amicable agreement.

He is survived by his second wife who, as Llin Golding, is still the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and by a son of his previous marriage to Thelma Gwillym. Another son of that marriage predeceased him.



SOLOMON KAUFMAN

Solomon Kaufman, international lawyer, died on Christmas Day aged 90. He was born on May 18, 1908.

SOLOMON KAUFMAN will be remembered particularly as the lawyer in two notable cases. In 1962 he acted for Dr Robert Soblen, the American spy, and in 1964 he acted for the author Leon Uris.

Soblen was an American citizen convicted of spying for the Russians and sentenced to life imprisonment. He fled to Israel with an invalid passport, only to be arrested in Tel Aviv. Sent back to the United States, he slashed his wrists on the flight over London, forcing the plane to land at Heathrow. There he was refused official entry at immigration, but managed to instruct Kaufman who, with Lord Elwyn-Jones, applied to a judge in St John's Wood at midnight for a writ of *habeas corpus*, which was granted.

At the High Court, Soblen was refused leave to remain in England. He went to the Court of Appeal, but again lost. While a further appeal was being considered, he committed suicide before he could be deported to America. The case is famous as a deportation case which was a disguised extradition case. In 1964 Kaufman acted for the populist author Leon Uris in defending a libel action brought by Dr Wladyslaw Dering. The case became known as "Auschwitz in England". Dering complained of a sentence in Uris's bestselling novel about Israel, *Exodus*, which stated that he had performed 17,000 operations in Auschwitz without anaesthetic, mainly on young women used as guinea-pigs.

The casewas unique in that the Polish Government was persuaded to bring to London the Auschwitz hospital operation register, in which were recorded 130 detailed operations for castration, sterilisation, ovarectomy and so on. The register was taken to court every day and returned to the Polish Embassy at night. The register clinched the case. Dr Dering was awarded one halfpenny damages and had to pay his own costs.

Dering had come to Britain after the war, then worked as a doctor in Somalia before returning to run a practice in Harley Street.

Solomon Kaufman was born in London and educated at the Grocers' School and at University College London, Montpellier, Bonn and Moscow Universities. He qualified as a solicitor in 1935 and founded Kaufman and Seigal in the late 1930s.

In the 1940s he acted for the provisional Israeli government before the end of the Palestinian Mandate. He worked for the same firm until the late 1960s, when he became a consultant to Sacker and Partners.

Kaufman retired in 1970, and later took a doctorate in Italian neo-classical stage design at Essex University.

He married Jennie Lubin in 1936; she died last July. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Latest wills

Lady **Ingrow**, of Keighley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,081,261 net.
She left £1,000 to the Royal British Legion and War on Cancer; £500 each to RNIB, the Polish Soldiers Trust Society and the Air Bridge Association.

Lady (Cyril) **Clarke**, of West Kirkby, Wirral, Merseyside, left estate valued at £510,085 net.

Lady (Owain) **Jenkins**, of Petworth, West Sussex, left estate valued at £785,086 net.
She left £1,000 to the PDSA and Camphill Village Trust.

Lady **Barnetson**, of Crowborough, East Sussex, left estate valued at £709,218 net.

Lady Margery Kathleen **Dunn**, widow of Sir Francis Vivien Dunn, of Haywards Heath, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,094,042 net.
She left £3,000 to the Foundation Fund of the Musicians' Company.

Lady Marjorie Avice **Lawrence**, of Hove, East Sussex, left estate valued at £407,757 net.
She left £1,000 to the Barristers' Benevolent Association and to the National Trust.

Catherine Ness **Quested**, of Saxstead, Suffolk, left estate valued at £5,767,078 net.

Harry Stanley **Smith**, of Long Hanborough, Witney, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,035,538 net.
She left £1,000 to All Saints' Church, Minstead, Cadnam, Hampshire; £400 each to RNLI, RSPCA and PDSA.

Margaret Frances **Charlish**, of Windsor, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,187,697 net.
She left £5,000 each to Cheshire Homes, Sue Ryder Home, Cancer Research Campaign, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, Ely Cathedral and Prince Charles Eye Unit.

Margaret Elsie **Armstrong**, of Ipswich, left estate valued at £1,022,262 net.
She left £3,000 each to Voluntary and Christian Service, Christchurch, Tacket Street United Reformed Church, the Samaritans and the Westminster Pastoral Foundation; £2,000 each to British Council of Churches, St Raphael Club, Ipswich, the World Church Mission Department and the Ipswich and Suffolk Mission to the Deaf and Dumb.

Elsie Muriel **Batchelar**, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,486,065 net.

Ronald Patrick **Clancy**, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,048,919 net.

John Kenneth **Frost**, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,263,738 net.

Ruth Margaret **Garside**, of Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,582,321 net.

Avrena Grace **Gill**, of Purley, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,461,092 net.

Joan Frances **Mills**, of Compton Greenfield, Easter Compton, Bristol left estate valued at £1,260,636 net.
She left £5,000 each to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Parkinson's Disease Society, Blue Cross, PDSA and the Royal UK Beneficent Association.

Peter **Moore**, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,812,926 net.

Philip Glyn **Morris**, of Gilwern, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, left estate valued at £1,460,036 net.

Robert Colin **Taylor**, of London SW1, left estate valued at £1,356,289 net.
He left £5,000 to Sidmouth Donkey Sanctuary; and the balance of his estate to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, RSPCA, PHAB, and Christian Aid.

Daniel **Lysons**, of Charlton, London SE7, left estate valued at £1,152,216 net.

ON THIS DAY

January 25, 1905

The year opened disastrously for Russia with the surrender of its fleet to the Japanese at Port Arthur. On the 22nd — "Bloody Sunday" — troops fired on workers in St Petersburg. The unrest continued, culminating in October when workers formed the first soviet.

THE RUSSIAN OUTBREAK

ST PETERSBURG, JAN. 24

The night passed quietly, and this morning there were no signs of excitement, although thousands of idle workmen are strolling about with their hands in their pockets.

The electric works are now manned by military electricians, and the supply was switched on again at half-past 7 this morning.

Nobody is reassured by the temporary lull. Many men are sending their wives and children to Helsingfors and other places of safety . . .

At 4 o'clock this afternoon, a troop of Cossacks, in dispersing a crowd of working men, drew their swords and wounded several persons.

In consideration of the disturbed state of the city, the officials and employés at the Ministries have been informed that they need not present themselves for duty if they think there is any danger. Consequently many offices are partly empty.

The chemists' assistants have joined the strikers. Work has been suspended at the central station of the Belgian Electrical Company, which furnishes most of the electric light supply of the capital. The electric light has gone out in the fashionable Bolshaia Morskaia thoroughfare.

The resources of the strikers are very limited. Only the Narva section of the Workmen's Club, which is the next in importance to the section attached to the Putiloff Works, has as large a sum as 15,000 roubles (£1,500) at its disposal. The sums of money paid to the needy as relief are extremely small. The strike organisation continues to collect subscriptions for the wounded.

So far, no workmen have been arrested, and the leaders also are still at liberty. A man named Wassilieff, who accompanied Father Gapon in the procession on Sunday as a representative of a section of the Workmen's Club, was killed, and three of the priest's assistants, named Ussakoff, Tikonoff, and Inosemzeff, were wounded, the last-mentioned seriously.

Father Gapon is in hiding. Proclamations, the genuineness of which is, however, doubtful, are being issued in his name . . .

The following official statement is issued today:

"During the day of January 23 there was no collision between the riotous crowd and the troops. The detachments of soldiers had no need to use their arms, as the crowd dispersed on the appearance of the troops. During the day an attempt was made to attack the Gostiny Dvor market, but was repulsed. The workmen of the electric stations joined the strike in the evening, then some groups, taking advantage of the darkness, began to break the windows of the shops in the different streets; but order was everywhere quickly restored.

"No-one was killed or wounded during January 23. The exact number of killed on January 22 is 96, and of wounded 333, 53 of whom have registered at the ambulance stations."

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Shaming of Olympic idea

The ruling body of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday recommended that six IOC members be expelled in the biggest scandal in the 104-year history of the Games.

Three other members have already resigned and three more remain under investigation in the £500,000 "votes-for-favours" scandal over Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics .... Pages 1, 4

Blairs complain over newspaper

The Prime Minister and his wife last night objected to the Press Complaints Commission over a newspaper story about Kathryn, their ten-year-old daughter. The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony and Cherie Blair had complained to Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission .... Page 1

Mowlam demand

Mo Mowlam will today meet the political representatives of Northern Ireland's three main paramilitary groups at Stormont to demand an end to all 'punishment beatings' .... Pages 1, 6

Race report shelved

THE Home Office has shelved a highly sensitive study showing that blacks are far more likely to be criminals that Asians or whites. The study was carried out by a senior Home Office researcher for Jack Straw .... Page 2

Millennium concert

The BBC is organising a £10 million music extravangaza that will surpass Live Aid as the biggest concert event ever staged in Britain. It will be a showcase for British musical talent and will mark the the millennium .... Page 3

Libel lawyer's bill

The libel lawyer whose name strikes fear into writ recipients is facing a bill of tens of thousands of pounds for legal fees after failing to resolve a dispute with his partners. Peter Carter-Ruck may be forced to arbitration ..... Page 5

Chance rescue

The two halves of an t 13th-century diptych have been reunited thanks to a chance discovery. The link was discovered when the owner of the left wing sent photographs to an expert .... Page 7

Prescott alone

John Prescott dismissed the need for further links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats, saying that the party did not need help from anyone else to achieve its manifesto commitments .... page 8

Frigate transformed

HMS Norfolk, a 4,000-tonne frigate armed with a 4.5-in gun, and a bewildering array of missiles, has been transformed by the arrival of the women officers and ratings, among the first allowed to go to sea since the Royal Navy changed centuries of tradition seven years ago .... Page 9

Front divided

The French National Front ruptured yesterday into bitterly antagonistic halves, accompanied by a level of acrimony rare even for Europe's largest extreme right-wing party .... Page 10

Hostage swap

Nine ethnic Albanian separatists were freed by the Serbian authorities over the weekend in a hostage swap that is likely to enrage radicals in the Belgr Kosovo Liberation Army .... Page 11

Disappointed king

King Hussein of Jordan removed his younger brother, Hassan, as successor to the throne after 34 years because of disappointment at his leadership .... Page 12

McCartney fights ban on song

■ Sir Paul McCartney has launched a crusade against radio and television stations that have banned the final song by his late wife, Linda, because it contains a swear word. The single, is taken from his wife's posthumous solo album, *Wide Prairie*. Sir Paul has taken an advertisement in *The Times* complaining about the censorship .... Page 3

ALBAN DONOHOE



For the first time Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, accepted a helping arm as she walked to St Mary's Church near Sandringham

BUSINESS

Mirror turmoil: Sir Victor Blank, chairman of Mirror Group, the newspaper publisher, will this week try to oust David Montgomery, chief executive, from the board .... Page 48

Air traffic row: The Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott has clashed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown over plans for a £1 billion sale of the air traffic control service .... Page 45

Energy delays: The Government's Energy White Paper faces problems following delays to the electricity "pool" reform .... Page 48

Row over a casino: Thistle Hotels is being sued by its rival Stakis over the closure a casino in Middlesbrough casino .... Page 43

FEATURES

Feeling alive: The craze for experiencing sporting thrills is a growing and dangerous one, says Celia Brayfield .... Page 16

Woman power? Arabella Melville, an academic, claims that she has stopped her partner being violent. Penny Wark reports .... Page 16

FASHION

Endangered species: Who pays £10,000 for a day suit? Lisa Armstrong on couture customers who do not get discounts and stay away from the catwalks .... Pages 14, 15

LOTTERY NUMBERS

1, 8, 10, 17, 32, 47. Bonus: 2
One ticket holder won £7,868,414.

Real-life drama: With this week's opening of *Intimate Death* and *Brief Candle*, London is able to see two plays based on real diaries of real people .... Page 17

Living link: The artist Jean-Marie Toulgouat talks about preserving the heritage of his step-great-grandfather, Claude Monet, and the influence of Giverny .... Page 18

From the grave: Elvis Presley may be dead but that didn't deter the thousands of fans who gathered at London's Wembley Arena on Saturday night for the "virtual Elvis" show .... Page 19

East meets West: The San Francisco Symphony Orchestra launches its European tour at the Barbican with American and Russian music .... Page 19

Football: Manchester United overcame Liverpool in a thrilling FA Cup fourth-round tie and were then given an attractive tie against Fulham in the fifth round. Page 25, 29

Cricket: Alec Stewart, the England captain, has been reminded that he is responsible for the behaviour of his team after the ill feeling that dominated the match against Sri Lanka in Adelaide .... Page 27

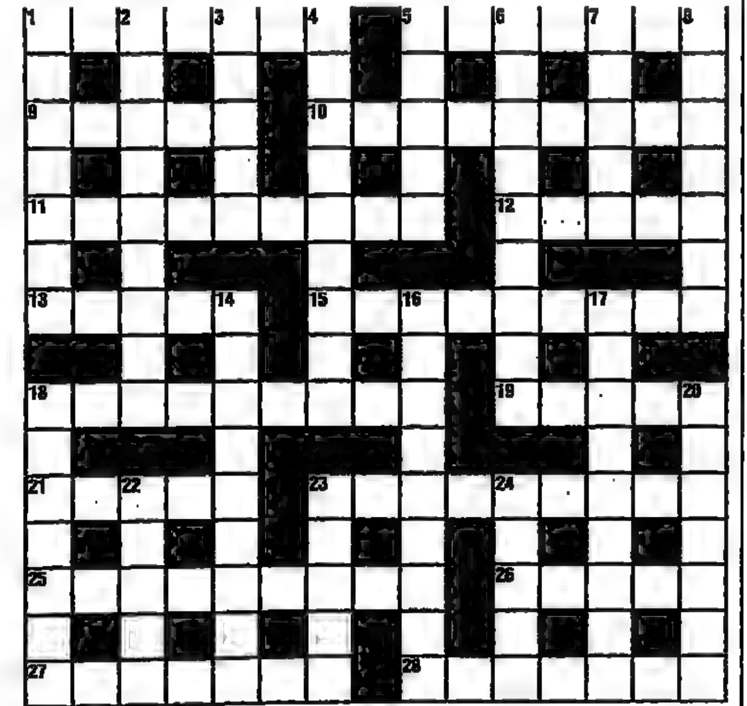
Tennis: Thomas Enqvist ended home interest in the Australian Open with a victory over Mark Philippoussis .... Page 26

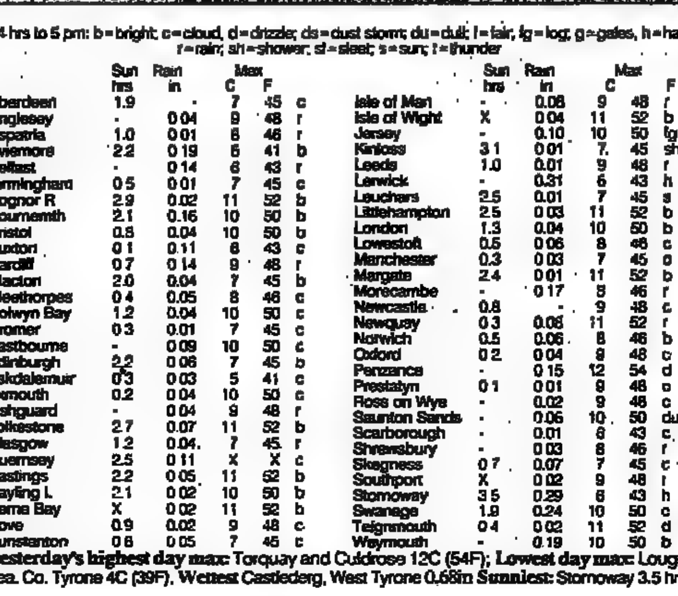
Bowls: Alex Marshall, who started the tournament as a 100-1 outsider, won the world indoor singles championship .... Page 26

Athletics: Officials may today reveal the identity of the senior British athlete who has failed a drugs test .... Page 26

Racing: Istabraq warmed up for the defence of his Smurfit Champion Hurdle crown .... Page 38

Both the Kosovo massacres and the flight of refugees appear in our television screens, but our politicians watch the images of horror and suffering just like the rest of us, and have no better idea of how to react than we do. The truth is that as long as Balkan conflicts do not spill over into Western Europe, European politicians are not prepared to pay the price for proper security arrangements — *La Stampa*, Turin





TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS

The National Gallery showcases the supremely confident portraits of the 19th-century French painter Ingres

■ LAW

So who says you're married? Edward Fennel on overseas weddings



RADIO & TV

Preview: Farmer Oliver Watson looks at the future of agriculture (BBC2, 7.30pm). **Review:** Paul Hoggart intrigued by Poliakoff 46, 47

OPINION

Let battle begin

The first months of Paddy Ashdown's leadership were marred by an embarrassing argument over his new party's name. It would be unfortunate if the last months were scarred by an equally slapstick system for succession .... Page 21

Green mischief

To hold his coalition together, Gerhard Schröder may have felt obliged to give way to the Greens' anti-nuclear campaign. He will pay dearly as the consequences become plain .... Page 21

666 and all that

The Vatican may try to give evil a make-over but most people will prefer the Devil they know .... Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The social situation is not revolutionary, or even pre-revolutionary, but these constitutional issues have an energy which can destroy the calculations of rational politics. In the coming years we shall see who can breast this tide. He will need to be much more of a Cromwell than a Charles<704> .... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Paddy Ashdown's departure will not affect Labour-Liberal Democrat co-operation and their aim of making the centre left the dominant force in British politics. But the frequency with which such claims are made reveals how unsure the Blairites are .... Page 20

ANNA BLUNDY

The Russian tabloid press is full of tales of barely human deeds, of people who seem to have lost not only their moral values but their very animal instincts .... Page 20

Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Lewin; Leslie French, actor; John Golding, Labour MP; Solomon Kaufman, lawyer .... Page 23

Nursing; witness protection; sentenced soldiers; millennium flights; Lord Goodman; legal aid; Chambers wit; smoking .... Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,009

ACROSS
1 Tail angle identifies small shark (7).
5 Iced drink for a snob? (7).
9 It's not wholly wasted if you improve intellectually (5).
10 Converted chap's air I found overly self-righteous (9).
11 Prizewinner lingers out East, satisfied about it (9).
12 Jack's part in construction of church, say (5).
13 Stern military leader's to provide new weapons (5).
15 Make red and black tapestry in German town (9).
18 Girl reported in sea, swimming for Pacific islands (9).
19 Sportswear unpopular with batsmen (5).
21 Curved structure by lake in wood (5).
23 County for women, as opposed to men and clergymen, according to Smith? (9).
25 Steward requires doctor after important function (5-4).
26 RAF officer concealing stolen picture (5).
27 Relative backing dance in City (7).
28 Oriental chap covers a bet (7).

DOWN
1 Person in brown study with poetic view of Oxford spire? (7).
2 Bird Hilda cooked inside corporation building (9).
3 Blissful scene, messing about idly on lake (5).
4 The joy of just one hour in the pub? (9).
5 Map produced by husband in light vehicle (5).
6 Having narrow views, like the Shires, perhaps? (9).
7 Scotsman in US city is a climber (5).
8 Dodges game (7).
14 Air much polluted round an Eastern region (9).
16 Disorientated road sweeper outside directors' place (9).
17 Partner in crime taking handbag, say (9).
18 Coppers mostly arrest half of them, producing controversy (7).
20 Military instrument audibly fires warning signal (7).
22 Newly arrange part of army dance (5).
23 Some stew contains old deer (5).
24 Learners copy inside part of jacket (5).

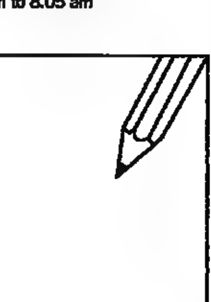
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 21,008 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.49 am
Sun sets: 4.36 pm
Moon sets: 12.59 pm
Moon rises: 11.39 am
Full moon January 31

London 4.36 pm to 7.48 am
Bristol 4.47 pm to 7.58 am
Edinburgh 4.30 pm to 8.19 am
Manchester 4.37 pm to 8.04 am
Penzance 5.03 pm to 8.05 am



Books for Schools token inside



FORECAST

☐ **General:** South Wales, the Midlands, East Anglia and southern England will start overcast with rain. The rain may linger for much of the day in the southeast, but elsewhere it will brighten up. Northern England, North Wales and Northern Ireland will have sunshine and showers although sheltered eastern areas will stay dry. Scotland will be cold with overnight rain and hill snow in the north, clearing to leave sunny intervals and heavy showers, mostly in the west.

☐ **London, SE England, Channel Islands:** dull with rain, drying from NW. Wind SW, stiff. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Central & SW England:** rain, some afternoon sun. Wind SW, Max 12C (54F).

☐ **E Anglia, Midlands, Central N & E England, S Wales:** rain clearing to leave sunny spells and showers. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **N Wales, NW & NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man:** sunny spells, heavy showers. Wind SW, gusty. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, Orkney, Shetland:** sunny spells and occasional sleety showers. Wind SW, freshening. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **SW, NE & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** sunshine, heavy showers, wintry over hills. Wind SW, freshening. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** mostly dry in east. Showers in north and west. Wind SW, fresh to strong. Max 8C (46F)

☐ **Outlook:** rain, with snow on hills.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gales; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	1.9	-	7	45	c	Isle of Man	-	0.08	9	48	r
Anglesey	-	0.04	9	48	r	Isle of Wight	X	0.04	11	52	b
Aspatria	1.0	0.01	8	46	r	Jersey	-	0.10	10	50	fg
Aviemore	2.2	0.19	5	41	b	Kinloss	3.1	0.01	7	45	sh
Belfast	-	0.14	6	43	r	Leeds	1.0	0.01	9	48	r
Birmingham	0.5	0.01	7	45	c	Lerwick	-	0.31	6	43	h
Bognor R	2.9	0.02	11	52	b	Leuchars	2.5	0.01	7	45	s
Bournemth	2.1	0.16	10	50	b	Littlehampton	2.5	0.03	11	52	b
Bristol	0.8	0.04	10	50	b	London	1.3	0.04	10	50	b
Buxton	0.1	0.11	6	43	c	Lowestoft	0.5	0.06	8	46	c
Cardiff	0.7	0.14	9	48	r	Manchester	0.3	0.03	7	45	c
Clacton	2.0	0.04	7	45	b	Margate	2.4	0.01	11	52	b
Cleethorpes	0.4	0.05	8	46	c	Morecambe	-	0.17	8	46	r
Colwyn Bay	1.2	0.04	10	50	c	Newcastle	0.8	-	9	48	c
Cromer	0.3	0.01	7	45	c	Newquay	0.3	0.08	11	52	r
Eastbourne	-	0.09	10	50	c	Norwich	0.5	0.06	8	46	b
Edinburgh	2.2	0.06	7	45	b	Oxford	0.2	0.04	9	48	c
Eskdalemuir	0.3	0.03	5	41	c	Penzance	-	0.15	12	54	d
Exmouth	0.2	0.04	10	50	c	Prestatyn	0.1	0.01	9	48	c
Fishguard	-	0.04	9	48	r	Ross on Wye	-	0.02	9	48	c
Folkestone	2.7	0.07	11	52	b	Saunton Sands	-	0.06	10	50	du
Glasgow	1.2	0.04	7	45	r	Scarborough	-	0.01	6	43	c
Guernsey	2.5	0.11	X	X	c	Shrewsbury	-	0.03	8	46	r
Hastings	2.2	0.05	11	52	b	Skegness	0.7	0.07	7	45	c
Hayling I.	2.1	0.02	10	50	b	Southport	X	0.02	9	48	r
Herne Bay	X	0.02	11	52	b	Stornoway	3.5	0.29	6	43	h
Hove	0.9	0.02	9	48	c	Swanage	1.9	0.24	10	50	c
Hunstanton	0.6	0.05	7	45	c	Teignmouth	0.4	0.02	11	52	d
						Weymouth	-	0.19	10	50	b

Yesterday's highest day max: Torquay and Culdrose 12C (54F); **Lowest day max:** Lough Fea, Co. Tyrone 4C (39F). **Wettest** Castlederg, West Tyrone 0.68in **Sunniest:** Stornoway 3.5 hrs

ABROAD

Ajaccio	13	55	s	Cologne	7	45	c	Madrid	9	48	d	Rome	12	54	s
Akrotiri	17	63	s	C'phagn	5	41	f	Majorca	15	59	f	Salzburg	-2	28	s
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Corfu	13	55	f	Malaga	10	50	r	S Frisco	11	52	f
Algiers	19	66	s	Dublin	7	45	s	Malta	15	59	f	Santiago	28	82	s
Amst'dm	4	39	fg	Dubrovnik	11	52	s	Melbourne	X			S Paulo	X		
Athens	12	54	f	Faro	13	55	f	Mexico C	19	66	s	Seoul	7	45	c
Bahrain	18	64	s	Florence	1	34	s	Miami	27	81	s	Singapore	27	81	r
Bangkok	34	93	f	Frankfurt	5	41	s	Milan	8	46	s	Stockholm	4	39	f
Barbados	X			Funchal	17	63	f	Montreal	-6	21	s	Strasb'rg	3	37	s
Barcelona	13	55	f	Geneva	1	34	c	Moscow	2	36	s	Sydney	24	75	c
Beirut	16	61	f	Gibraltar	10	50	r	Munich	-1	30	s	Tangier	10	50	r
Belgrade	-1	30	c	Helsinki	1	34	c	Nairobi	27	81	s	Tel Aviv	20	68	s
Berlin	6	43	s	Hong K	21	70	c	Naples	13	55	s	Tenerife	18	64	c
Bermuda	22	72	s	Innsbruck	4	39	s	N Delhi	20	68	fg	Tokyo	11	52	s
Biarritz	14	57	s	Istanbul	8	46	f	N York	4	39	f	Toronto	1	34	r
Bordeaux	11	52	s	Jeddah	28	82	s	Nice	14	57	s	Tunis	16	61	s
Brussels	5	41	fg	Jo'burg	21	70	f	Oslo	1	34	s	Valencia	13	55	r
Budapest	-3	27	c	L Palmas	X			Paris	8	46	f	Vanc'ver	5	41	r
B Aires	29	84	f	Le Tquet	8	46	f	Perth	X			Venice	4	39	s
Beijing	6	43	s	Lisbon	9	48	c	Prague	-2	28	c	Vienna	-2	28	c
Cairo	20	68	s	Locarno	8	46	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f	Warsaw	1	34	c
Cape Tn	29	84	s	L Angeles	15	59	s	Rhodes	11	52	r	Wash'ton	10	50	f
Chicago	5	41	f	Luxembg	8	46	s	Rio de J	28	82	f	Zurich	-3	27	fg
Ch'church	X			Luxor	26	79	s	Riyadh	16	61	s				

Temperatures at midday local time Friday X = not available

MODERATE

Changes to the chart below from noon: Lows A and B combine and move SE, slowly filling; Low C drifts NE and fills; Highs D, E and F merge, building slightly.

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	7:01	3.7	19:15	3.9	Liverpool	4:27	8.2	16:57	8.4
Avonmouth	0:02	11.4	12:36	11.3	London Bridge	6:49	6.5	19:41	6.3
Belfast	4:27	3.1	16:49	3.3	Lowestoft	2:17	2.4	15:23	2.1
Cardiff	-	-	12:22	10.5	Margate	4:58	4.5	17:51	4.2
Devonport	10:49	4.8	23:30	4.6	Milford Haven	11:50	6.0	-	-
Dover	4:11	6.1	16:48	5.8	Newquay	10:50	6.1	23:25	5.8
Dublin	5:19	3.8	17:39	3.8	Oban	11:30	3.3	23:37	3.1
Falmouth	10:20	4.8	23:01	4.4	Penzance	10:09	4.9	22:43	4.6
Greenock	5:49	3.2	18:09	3.3	Portland	-	-	12:10	1.7
Harwich	4:51	3.7	17:36	3.6	Portsmouth	4:52	4.4	17:12	4.2
Holyhead	3:43	4.8	16:09	5.1	Shoreham	4:32	5.6	16:43	5.3
Hull (Albert D)	11:48	7.6	-	-	Southampton	4:16	4.2	16:41	4.0
Ilfracombe	11:31	7.9	-	-	Swansea	11:55	11.0	-	-
King's Lynn	-	-	12:06	5.6	Tees	9:29	9.3	21:44	9.4
Leith	8:13	4.9	20:33	5.0	Walton-On-Naze	4:45	3.9	17:30	3.7

All times GMT Heights in metres.



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15 PAGES

MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

FULHAM LAND PLUM OLD TRAFFORD TIE



Keegan and Ferguson on FA Cup collision course

Matt Dickinson looks forward to a renewal of hostilities at the Theatre of Dreams after a dramatic weekend of knockout fare

MANCHESTER United versus Fulham; Alex Ferguson against Kevin Keegan. The fifth round of the FA Cup, drawn yesterday, will make unmissable television — and that is just the managers' pre-match interviews.

As manager of Newcastle United, Keegan was embroiled in some epic personal confrontations with Ferguson, reaching a climax in a famous on-screen outburst against his counterpart. Now the pair can renew old rivalries after a draw that could scarcely have been bettered for romance and intrigue. It will not be long before the psychological bullets are being fired between Craven Cottage and Old Trafford.

How fitting, as well, that the teams involved in the most dramatic games of the weekend should be thrown together. Fulham pulled off the shock of the fourth round when they won 2-0 against Aston Villa on Saturday, their triumph as deserved as it was startling.

Keegan has a five-year plan to lift Fulham from the Nationwide League second division into the FA Carling Premiership and the trip to Old Trafford should provide a good measure of how far his club has travelled already on its extravagantly funded rise.

Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman, is the man bankrolling Fulham in the hope that he will one day be able to mix with the elite and an afternoon in the Old Trafford directors' box may whet his appetite even more. But Fulham will come up against the country's leading strikers in Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke and the prospect appears to be a daunting one.

"I shouldn't think we will cope at all," Simon Morgan, one of the Fulham goalscorers at Villa Park, said, "but it will be a great day out. The manager won't let us dream about United and Old Trafford. We have got an important game at home to Oldham on Tuesday and we want to get back on top of the league. That is our priority and we will just want a good time out in Manchester."

They could so easily have been playing Liverpool, though, after a stirring game at Old Trafford yesterday in which United scored in the 88th minute and then injury time to win 2-1. Trailing to Michael Owen's header after just three minutes, they had to dig deep into their reserves as Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, with almost his first touch, finally ended Liverpool's valiant resistance.

"We are not really interested in the FA Cup," Ferguson said sarcastically, in response to those who claim that his side has other priorities. "You can't believe football sometimes, but I believe we deserved what we got because we never gave up. Liverpool defended fantastically and will be gutted, quite rightly, but our sheer determination got us through. That is the beauty of the FA Cup."

United's relief was palpable. Gary Neville, a Manchester boy who had talked before the match of his dread of defeat to Liverpool, could not contain his delight, whirling around like a madman in front of the visiting supporters after Solskjaer's late strike.

The Liverpool players, meanwhile, dropped to the turf, some appearing to depart with tears in their eyes at having allowed victory to slip away so late in the game. "I told them they have nothing to be ashamed of," Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "I am proud of them.

"Today, we matched Manchester United and a couple of months ago I do not think we would have been capable of a performance like that. We have to keep improving and moving closer to them in standard, but I know that one day we will beat them."

Bookings for Roy Keane and Paul Scholes ensured that they will be absent against Fulham next month. "It was never dirty," Ferguson said. "Not like when Jimmy Case, Graeme Souness, Whiteside and Robbo were going at each other a few years back. You had to make sure your mummy was sitting beside you then, because you couldn't watch it alone. Today, they just got stuck in."

Urged on by the ebullient Keegan, Fulham will be doing the same. It would be one of the great upsets in recent years were they to repeat their feat of Saturday, but how Keegan — to borrow one of his own phrases — would love it.

Cup reports, pages 28-30
Programme notes, page 35

Harkness, the Liverpool defender, collapses to the turf at the final whistle

Arsenal v Sheffield United or Cardiff City

Wrexham or Huddersfield Town v Derby County

Leeds United v Wimbledon or Tottenham Hotspur

Barnsley v Bristol Rovers

Sheffield Wednesday v Oxford United or Chelsea

Everton v Coventry City

Newcastle United v Blackburn Rovers

Manchester United v Fulham

Ties to be played on weekend of February 13

★★★ Worth buying

ATHLETICS

Senior athlete failed drug test

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

BRITISH athletics is bracing itself for a damage limitation exercise after it was disclosed yesterday that a senior British athlete has failed a drugs test. The identity of the athlete was being kept secret by officials last night, but they may reveal the name today.

Officials were waiting to complete the formal procedure of notifying the athlete of the result of the B sample before making a statement. Jayne Pearce, the spokeswoman for UK Athletics, said: "It is my intention that we get to the stage of being able to confirm who the athlete is." She added that she hoped that would be today.

A lawyer understood to be acting for the athlete at the centre of the controversy said that the case against was so weak that it would not even make it to a hearing stage.

An out-of-competition random test returned a positive A sample and it is almost unheard of for a B sample to contradict the first finding. After 15 months rebuilding the sport's reputation, in the wake of the Diane Modahl drugs case and the collapse of the British Athletic Federation, officials will regard this blow as particularly ill-timed.

Tomorrow sees the official launch of the new governing body, UK Athletics, in London and, next weekend, the BBC televises the first meeting of its £17.5 million contract. Jon Ridgeon, the spokesman for Fast Track, which promotes the sport in Great Britain, said: "This has serious implications for all of us." Ridgeon said that neither he nor Alan Pascoe, the Fast Track chairman, knew the identity of the athlete, whose case threatens so much damage.

British athletics has been relatively free of positive drugs cases, the most high profile being Modahl's successful fight against a ban.

The most recent is that of Doug Turner, the European 200 metres silver medal-winner. Turner was suspended for three months in 1997 by the Scottish Games Association at a meeting in Meadowbank on December 31, 1996.

Australian Open: Brave Philippoussis fightback cut short by stumbling Swede

Enqvist ends interest of home hope

From Julian Muscat, Tennis Correspondent, in Melbourne

LOCAL interest evaporated from the Australian Open yesterday when Mark Philippoussis, the Melbournian showboat, foundered before a partisan crowd on Centre Court. Philippoussis, seeded No 14, rallied from two sets down before succumbing to Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden.

It was to prove a sombre experience for an audience driven by Philippoussis himself into something of a frenzy. A sense of anticlimax filled the arena when the giant Australian finally wilted under Enqvist's withering groundstrokes.

Enqvist, 24, opened the contest by establishing his total dominance. There was no hint of the drama to come when, playing flawless tennis for the best part of three sets, he stepped up to serve for the match at 5-4. Calamity then reared its head as Enqvist, his mood as serene as his tennis, felt that two close line-calls went against him.

Enqvist's placid expression gave way to his innermost thoughts — and they told of a mind rashly degenerating towards chaos. He fiercely challenged the umpire, returned to confront his first break points of the match and promptly dropped his serve. The crowd erupted and, when Philippoussis held to inch ahead at 6-5, he demanded yet further encouragement.

It was generously forthcoming, particularly from a bugler high in the stands, who blared out bars from *Advance Australia Fair*, to the crowd's unbridled delight. Enqvist now looked a beaten man, errors flowing from a racket that earlier had threatened to make a fool of his opponent.

Philippoussis snared the third-set tie-break, claimed the fourth set with a thunderous ace and then braced himself for the final assault.

Yet, in the end, he was found wanting, almost certainly suffering a reaction from his previous two matches, which lasted four and five sets respectively. He played a poor game at 3-2, compounding three errant forehands with a double fault that gifted Enqvist an unexpected opening. The Swede, who did not falter a second time, prevailed 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, 4-6, 6-2 in 2hr 51 min.

"It is always tough when you are close to winning and can't finish it off," Enqvist reflected. "In the end, I was lucky to get through."

Enqvist, the winner of all his 12 matches this year, was a strong pre-tournament fancy. He beat Pat Rafter, the No 3 seed and also from Australia, in the previous round. Enqvist has struggled with injuries for the past two years, but for which he might have justified his prodigal status. He


Frustration shows on the face of Philippoussis

reached a career-high No 6 in the world three years ago and has compiled an enviable 13-3 record in tournament finals.

Enqvist's quarter-final opponent is the unseeded Marc Rossett, who backed up his defeat of Tim Henman by dismissing Bohdan Ulihrach, of the Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Enqvist and Rosset have traded verdicts in their six previous encounters, although Enqvist has won the past three.

Karol Kucera, of Slovakia, has survived the scattering of seeds in this tournament. A semi-finalist last year, Kucera, seeded No 7, advanced to the quarter-finals yesterday with his fourth straight-sets victory in as many matches here. Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, was his latest victim as Kucera, a 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 winner, strode through to a match with Nicolas Lapentti, of Ecuador.

Lapentti, ranked No 91 in the world, earned the match-up by halting the entertaining progress of Andrew Ilie, of Australia, in four sets. Lapentti's 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 triumph was his easiest of the tournament: he was extended to five sets in each of his three previous matches.

The consequence was that Lapentti suffered from cramp in the fourth set and only just made it to the finishing post. He admitted later than a fifth set would have been beyond him.

Grand-slam tournaments afford the anonymous a greater stage and Lapentti, 22, has taken his chance with relish. He had never progressed beyond the second round in 11 previous efforts.

Lapentti is essentially a clay-court specialist; his presence among the last eight highlights the preponderence of baseliners to have flourished here. This hard court surface appears to compromise the serve and volley brigade. Against that, none of the 14 Spaniards in the draw — among them three seeds — survived the second round.

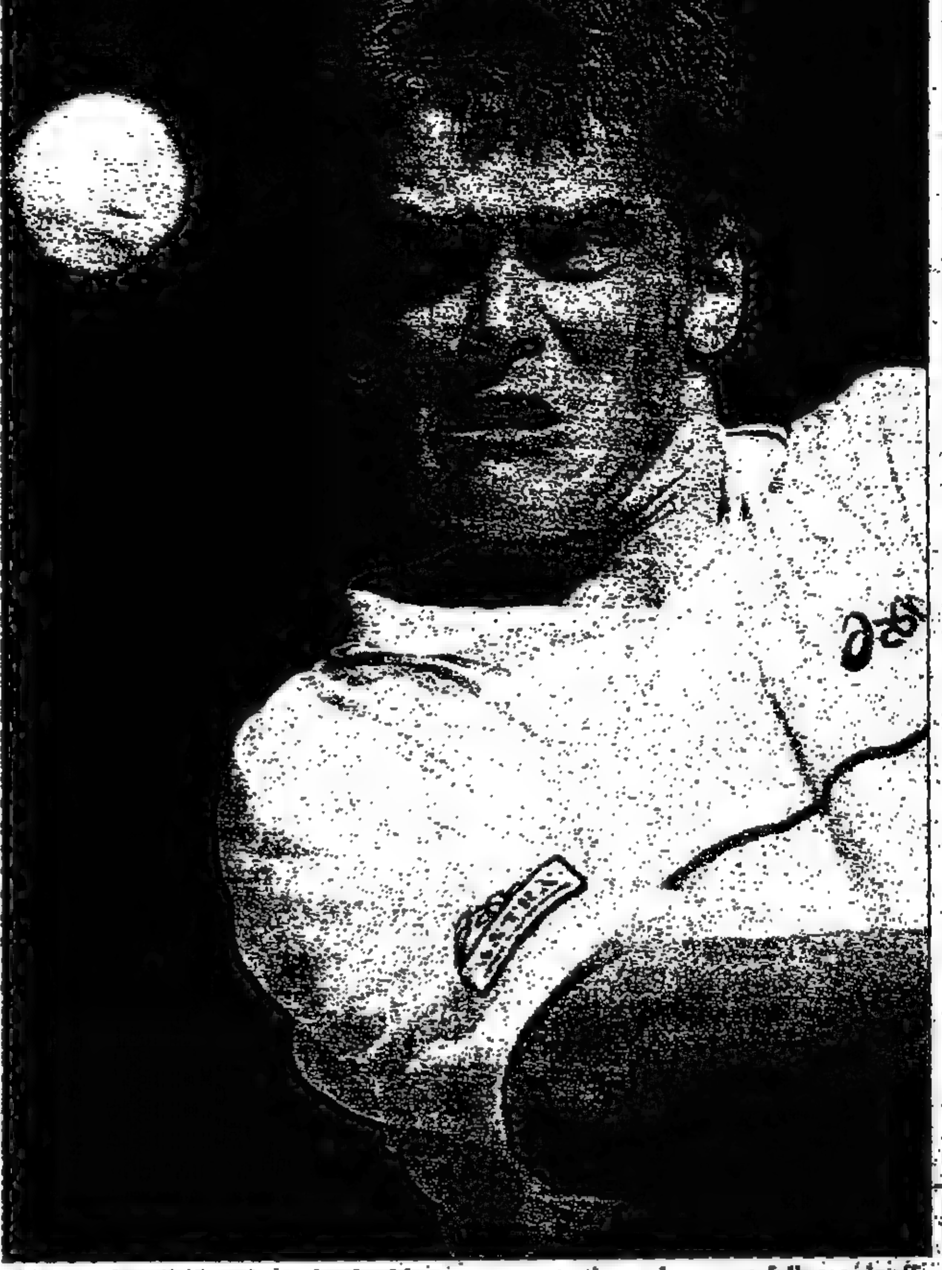
Petr Korda, the defending champion, fell in the third round after a 3hr 25min marathon against Todd Martin, seeded No 15. Martin's greater penetration on service, especially in the first set, eventually told on Korda, whose efforts here have been undermined by speculation surrounding the positive drugs test he submitted at Wimbledon in July.

Once again, a handful of spectators vented their spleen on Korda, who has more resembled a curious circus act than a man defending a grand-slam title. The indignity heaped on Korda must prompt the game's authorities into a wide-ranging review of the anti-doping programme.

Players who test positive for class one substances, such as steroids, as Korda did, must be banned before the appeals process kicks in and the authorities must ensure that the programme reflects accurately their intention that players found to have failed a test must then prove their innocence.

However, should Korda's lawyers challenge successfully the International Tennis Federation's right to appeal against the Korda verdict, the case will be closed. A man found with steriods in his system will be free to ply his trade. It may all be resolved in the High Court in London on Thursday.

In contrast to the men, ten women's seeds took their place among the last 16. Venus Williams, seeded No 5, had to work hard to overcome Chanda Rubin in two tight sets and next collides with Lindsay Davenport, the world No 1, who enjoyed a far smoother passage in routinely dismissing Maureen Drake, a qualifier from Canada.


The eyes have it: Enqvist maintains his stern concentration as he successfully wards off Philippoussis's efforts to turn a two-set deficit into victory. Photograph: Rick Rycroft

RESULTS

MEN

SINGLES: Third round: T Martin (US) bt P Korda (Cz) 7-5, 4-6, 7-6, 5-7, 6-4; Y Kafelnikov (Russ) bt J Courier (US) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2, 3-0, ret; F Santoro (Fr) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 7-6, 6-1, 6-3; V Spadea (US) bt M Damm (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; T Haas (Ger) bt D Nestor (Can) 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; W Black (Zim) bt G Pozzi (It) 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; A Pavel (Rom) bt P Goldstein (US) 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 7-5, 6-3; A Agassi (US) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1. Fourth round: N Lapentti (Ec) bt A Ilie (Aus) 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt W Ferreira (SA) 6-3, 6-1, 7-5; M Rosset (Switz) bt B Ulihrach (Cz) 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; T Enqvist (Swe) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, 4-6, 6-2.

DOUBLES: Second round: J Bjorkman (Swe) and P Rafter (Aus) bt M-K Goellner and D Prinosil (Ger) 6-2, 6-4; P Galbraith (US) and P Haarhuis (Holl) bt B Black (Zim) and W Ferreira (SA) 6-2, 6-4; G Kuerten (Br) and N Lapentti (Ec) bt D Petrovic (Aus) and G Silcock (Aus) 7-6, 6-4; D Adams (SA) and J L de Jager (SA) bt J Palmer and J Tarango (US) 7-5, 6-2. Third round: Y Kafelnikov (Russ) and D Vacek (Cz) bt L Arnold (Arg) and P Vizner (Cz) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; R Reneberg and J Stark (US) bt O Delaitre and F Santoro (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; T Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus) bt W Black (Zim) and S Stolle (Aus) 7-5, 6-0; J Bjorkman (Swe) and P Rafter (Aus) bt G Doyle and S Ellwood (Aus) 6-1, 6-4; M Bhupathi and L Paes (India) bt D Adams and J L de Jager (SA) 6-4, 7-6; E Ferreira (SA) and R Leach (US) bt D Roditi (Mex) and M Tebbutt (Aus) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

WOMEN

SINGLES: Third round: S Graf (Ger) bt M J Fernandez (US) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; M Hingis (Switz) bt J Dokic (Aus) 6-1, 6-2; M Seles (US) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; S Testud (Fr) bt S Williams (US) 6-2, 2-6, 9-7; B Schett (Austria) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-4, 6-4; A Kournikova (Russ) bt A Glass (Ger) 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; M Pierce (Fr) bt R Grande (It) 6-2, 6-2; A Coetzer (SA) bt J Lee (Taiwan) 6-3, 7-5. Fourth round: D van Roost (Bel) bt M A Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) 6-2, 6-3; V Williams (US) bt C Rubin (US) 7-6, 6-4; A Mauresmo (Fr) bt E Loit (Fr) 6-0, 7-5; L Davenport (US) bt M Drake (Can) 6-1, 6-3.

DOUBLES: Second round: E Callens (Bel) and J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt S Farina (It) and K Habsudova (Slovakia) 7-5, 6-3; L Davenport (US) and N Zvereva (Bela) bt K Kunce (Aus) and K Po (US) 7-6, 6-0; Y Basuki (Indo) and A Mauresmo (Fr) bt R Hiraki (Japan) and L McShea (Aus) 6-1, 7-6; F Labat (Arg) and D van Roost (Bel) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) and A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-4, 2-6, 6-1. Third round: L Neiland (Lat) and A Sánchez Vicario (Sp) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz) and T Krizan (Slovenia) 6-7, 7-5, 6-1; S and V Williams (US) bt M de Swardt (SA) and E Tatarkova (Ukr) 7-6, 6-2; N Arendt (US) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt S Appelmans (Bel) and M Oremans (Holl) 6-2, 6-3; L Raymond (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) bt B Schett (Austria) and P Schnyder (Switz) 6-0, 6-7, 6-3; M Hingis (Switz) and A Kournikova (Russ) bt J Novotna (Cz) and M Seles (US) 7-6, 6-3.

MIXED DOUBLES

FIRST ROUND: C Haggard (SA) and E Callens (Bel) bt L Paes (India) and K Adams (US) 7-6, 6-3; N Kulti (Swe) and M Oremans (Holl) bt P Galbraith (US) and L Raymond (US) 7-6, 6-1; K Ullyett (SA) and N Pratt (Aus) bt M Tebbutt and J Dokic (Aus) 2-6, 6-4, 6-1; D McPherson and R McQuillan (Aus) bt M Knowles (Bah) and A Kournikova (Russ) 7-6, 6-4; D Roditi (Mex) and L Wild (US) bt N Broad (GB) and A Coetzer (SA) 4-6, 6-2, 7-6; R Leach (US) and L Neiland (Lat) bt W Arthurs and K-A Guse (Aus) 4-6, 6-3, 6-6; T Woodbridge and L McShea (Aus) bt T Kempers (Holl) and Y Basuki (Indo) 7-6, 6-2; P Albano (Arg) and M Bollegraf (Holl) bt P Tramacchi (Aus) and A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-3, 6-4; M Bhupathi (India) and M Lucic (Cro) bt M Damm (Cz) and K Schwandt 2-6, 7-5, 7-5; M Mirnyi (Bela) and S Williams (US) bt J Grabb (US) and R Stubbs (Aus) 6-1, 7-6.

SNOOKER

Wales dig deep for Cup

By Phil Yates

A FIERCELY patriotic captain, a 21-year-old without a leading tournament win on his résumé and arguably the most confident player in the sport at present all played a vital role in giving Wales a surprise 6-4 victory over Scotland in the Nations Cup final at the Telewest Arena in Newcastle yesterday.

Matthew Stevens, the junior member of the Welsh team, won three of the four frames in which he was involved, as did Mark Williams, while Darren Morgan, who led the side so effectively, launched their fightback.

When Scotland, aided by a break of 90 from Stephen Hendry and a solid frame win from John Higgins, led 3-1, they looked set to add the trophy to the World Cup that they won in Bangkok a little more than two years ago.

Morgan beat Chris Small in the fifth frame to launch the Welsh revival, however, and it gathered momentum when Williams produced an outstanding 101 clearance to account for the sixth after Higgins, who was 22-0 ahead, had missed a straightforward red.

Small, who boasted the best individual record of the event, with 12 wins from 16 frames, regained the initiative for Scotland at 4-3, thanks to a break of 79, but the stubborn streak exhibited by the Welsh all week came to the fore again.

Williams, in partnership with Stevens, had a break of 74 in the closing doubles frame and won the ninth against McManus single-handedly. Stevens, whose previous career highlight was an appearance in the final of the United Kingdom championship this season, then held firm against Hendry.

He initiated the scoring with a break of 41, potted a red, laid a Chinese snooker and, after Hendry misjudged his attempted safety shot, stepped in with a break of 46.

"We got the format right and I am delighted with the way we played," Morgan said. "It's a very proud moment for all of us. We have just beaten the best team in the world." The Welsh players collected £17,500 each.

BOWLS

Marshall defies the odds

By David Rhys Jones

ALEX MARSHALL, who started the tournament as a 100-1 outsider, won the world indoor singles championship at Potters Leisure Resort in Norfolk yesterday, beating David Gourlay, the 1996 champion and No 6 seed, 7-6, 7-2, 7-0 in an all-Scottish final.

Marshall, 31, a storeman from Tranent, who had qualified for the championship only twice before, in 1992 and 1995, when he lost to Andy Thomson, has a much better record than those odds would suggest. Outdoors, he won the world pairs and fours titles at Worthing in 1992 and he reached the pairs final again four years later. Indoors, he won the Scottish singles title in 1994 and the world pairs with Richard Corsie in 1995.

"Since then, I have not been playing as well," he admitted. "On top of that, I've had a difficult year, moving house, changing clubs and losing my father, so it was great to hit my best form."

Gourlay, whose form was patchy on the way to the final, changed his bowls for his assignation with Marshall, preferring the medium-weight swingers that took him to the title three years ago to the narrow-running heavyweights that he had used in

Results..........39

his first four matches. "It didn't work," he said afterwards, "but I can't blame the bowls. Alex played superbly and, after the first set, never gave me a chance."

Gourlay squandered an easy chance to win the first set, when, at 3-4, he failed to put his fourth bowl within 18in of the jack to score a set-winning full house and Marshall stepped in to take the set with a brilliant take-out on the next end.

The pace dropped in the second set, which went to nine ends, all of them singles, but Marshall, whose consistency with his opening bowl did the damage, was always in control. Marshall was well aware that Gourlay had recovered from a two-set deficit in the quarter-finals and was prepared for a gritty response at the start of the third set.

Facing a difficult lie on the opening end, Marshall took a brave decision to fire and produced one of the best shots of the championship. Driving accurately through a small gap, he removed two enemy bowls and scored a treble that hit Gourlay hard. Two ends later, it was all over. Scoring two doubles, Marshall became the fourth successive Scot to win the world title.

ICE SKATING

Russians tipped for success

From Angela Court in Prague

THE European figure skating championships, which begin here today, are the first senior International Skating Union (ISU) competition of the new programme *en route* to the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, and they are likely to reveal several outstanding newcomers.

For the men, the first test comes today, when they will be required to skate their free programme in the qualification rounds, which, for the first time at senior level, will

nal score. The women's qualifiers take place on Wednesday.

Russia is favourite to take all four titles here. Maria Butyrskaya, the defending champion, should have no trouble in the women's competition, especially in the absence of Irina Slutskaya. Alexei Yagudin, the world champion, is tipped for the men's title, but will face strong opposition not only from Alexei Urmanov, the 1994 Olympic champion, but also from Evgeni Plushenko, 16, who out-skated both men in the recent Russian national championships.

Great Britain has entries in three of the four disciplines. Stephanie Main will compete in the women's event, while Clive Shorten and Neil Wilson are entered in the men's competition. Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, two-times the national ice dance champions, will be looking to improve on their eighteenth place at this event last year.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Clinical Kosir stays cool to clinch win

■ SKIING: Jure Kosir, of Slovenia, took full advantage of mistakes by Pierrick Bourgeat, of France, and Thomas Stangassinger, of Austria, to win the men's World Cup slalom race in Kitzbühel yesterday. Kosir, who was third after the first run, produced a time of 1min 36.40sec to narrowly beat Didier Plaschy, of Switzerland. Giorgio Rocca, of Italy, was third. Errors by Bourgeat, the first-leg leader, and Stangassinger, the series leader, who was second on the first leg, left the way clear for Kosir.

In Italy, Alexandra Meissnitzer, of Austria, extended her lead in the overall World Cup standings when she won the women's giant slalom race in 2min 26.20sec at Cortina D'ampezzo. Martina Ertl, of Germany, was second with Anita Wachter, of Austria, third.

Brown runs into form

■ ATHLETICS: **Jon Brown, the 1996 European cross-country champion and British 10,000 metres record-holder, showed that he is coming into form in time for the London Marathon in April with his best run of the winter in the Basque town of Elgoibar, in northern Spain. The Sheffield runner, who lives in Canada, held Paul Tergat, of Kenya, the four-times world cross-country champion, to record a 10sec victory in the 10.6-kilometre race. Tergat crossed the line in 29min 13sec, with Brown finishing second in 29min 23sec.**

Williams finds his best

■ FENCING: James Williams yesterday produced the best home result in the Corble Cup, Great Britain's round of the sabre World Cup, in recent years. He earned four victories in the seeding round before he defeated Thomas Ducourant, of France, 15-12. Franck Ducheix, his next opponent, also of France, was forced to retire with a torn leg muscle with the score at 12-11. In the last 16, against Steffen Wiesinger, of Germany, Williams damaged his foot, but won 15-14 before losing 15-13 in the quarter-finals to Carlo Fornario, of Italy. The event was won by Raffaello Caserta, of Italy.

Adelaide delighted

■ CYCLING: Stuart O'Grady, of Australia, right, the winner of the Prutour in Britain last year, delighted his home crowd in Adelaide yesterday by successfully defending his lead in the six-day Tour Down Under to win the race overall. He had started the final day's 120-kilometre street race on a tight circuit with a lead of 16sec from Jesper Skibby, of Denmark.



Lawn stage late fight

■ BOWLS: Tye Green, the holders of the Yetton Trophy, were defeated by The Lawns, based at the David Lloyd Centre, in Enfield, in the zone finals of the women's national inter-club championship, while Torbay, the runners-up last year, were beaten by West Cornwall. The Lawns, who trailed throughout, went into the last end five shots adrift, but scored two doubles and a four against a double to win by one.

Sri Lanka may go home early as bowling action of Muralitharan is put back in the spotlight

Ranatunga deserves censure for shameful behaviour

There were ugly scenes on and off the field at Adelaide on Saturday. Michael Henderson gives his verdict



Muralitharan, bowling at the end of Emerson, the umpire who no-balled him from square leg, was at the centre of the controversy against England at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday

THE events at the Adelaide Oval on Saturday, when Sri Lanka beat England by one wicket in the final over of an extraordinary match, were by turns predictable, eventful and shameful. It was a marvellous win for Sri Lanka, but a grim day. Muttiah Muralitharan, their off spinner, was no-balled for throwing. Arjuna Ranatunga, the abrasive captain, will face a disciplinary hearing in Adelaide tomorrow, charged with misconduct.

Ranatunga, who will appear before Peter van der Merwe, the match referee, was cited for his overall performance on a day that called for leadership and got instead childish tantrums and, unpardonably, the bullying of umpires.

Unless Van der Merwe comes down strongly against Ranatunga, the International Cricket Council (ICC) will be seen to have ducked the issue. If he suspends him, as he should, for Ranatunga acted in contravention of five of the nine points laid out in the ICC regulations drawn up last year, Sri Lanka may well decide to up sticks and go home.

For all the excitement of a game that produced more than 600 runs and a superb hundred in each innings, it will go down as the day that Muralitharan was again called for throwing, the way in which Ranatunga threatened to march his players off the field and for the unseemly manner in which players on both sides behaved.

It is entirely right that Ranatunga should be called to account, because his side's gamesmanship corrupted the day and they take their cue from him. Nor did the play-acting end there. The Sri Lankans wanted the game to be called off between innings because, they claimed, the light was not good enough — even though it was.

Although nobody in the England camp will speak publicly about Ranatunga's behaviour, the private view is that he is a menace. On Saturday, he lectured the umpires to the point of telling Ross Emerson where to stand.

It was predictable that Emerson would no-ball Muralitharan for "chucking". This is the man who called him seven times in a one-day match in Brisbane three years ago. The only surprise was that he felt he needed ten balls from his vantage point at square leg to make the call, in the eighteenth over of the innings.

The events that his decision provoked were also predictable, because whispers last week indicated that Ranatunga would take his team off if the bowler was called. In the event, it was not quite a walk-off. The players halted by the gates at the members' enclosure, where the captain entered into discussions with Van der Merwe and the umpires.

Ranatunga and Ranjith Fernando, the Sri Lanka manager, also rang Colombo to speak to Thilanga Sumathipala, chairman of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL), to ascertain the best course of action. The BCCSL subsequently held an emergency meeting yesterday and empowered Sumathipala to appoint a legal team if necessary to defend Muralitharan.

The game eventually continued 14 minutes later. Ranatunga's behaviour from then on bore no mark of grace. Indeed, Alec Stewart could be heard later in the day on the stump microphone, telling him it was "disgraceful" for the captain of an international side to carry on as he had done. Stewart was not blameless himself, bumping into Mahanama as he walked from behind the stumps at the end of an over.

> 'Emerson was culpable because he had surrendered his control earlier'

Emerson was culpable, because he had surrendered his control of the match earlier in the day. When Muralitharan switched ends shortly after the stoppage, Ranatunga instructed the umpire to stand directly over the stumps, so he could not properly see the bowler's arm action. Emerson simply did as he was told.

After that, nobody emerged with high marks for good behaviour. As the match came to boiling-point, with Sri Lanka chasing 303 for victory, things got nasty.

Mahanama obstructed Gough in his follow-through and Gough responded later in the over by lowering his head towards the batsman, an unpleasant gesture if not an outright statement of aggression.

There was also a general feeling of enmity between the players.

The main victim of this poisonous atmosphere was Emerson. Quite apart from the rights and wrongs of calling Muralitharan, he presided over a seven-ball over from Gough, failed to refer a run-out to the third umpire when Jayawardene, 33 at the time, was short of the line, signalled a four hit from Jayasuriya as six and, by missing Mahanama's obstruction of Gough, he could not uphold England's appeal for dismissal.

Given the closeness of the outcome, any one of these mishaps was important. Taken together, they constituted a remarkable sequence of events that indicate why Emerson is not widely regarded as the most competent of arbiters.

Emerson's decision to no-ball Muralitharan brought to a head a matter that has festered since the Sri Lankans arrived in Australia. He was one of three umpires who called Muralitharan for throwing on the last tour. Tony McQuillan, standing at the other end on Saturday, was one of the others. The third man was Darrell Hair, who described Muralitharan's action as "diabolical" in his recent autobiography.

Invisible as he was on Saturday, Hair is directly involved in the reopening of these old wounds. He stood himself down from the panel for this series, even though he is Australia's senior umpire, and the Sri Lankans feel that the other umpires were keen to make a point on his behalf. On Friday, when the teams meet again in Perth, Emerson will get another opportunity.

The Sri Lankans have some grounds for complaint. They are unhappy that an impression has been given that some umpires had referred Muralitharan's action to Van der Merwe after the opening games of this triangular competition. The referee has since said that nobody has raised the matter, although his observations will feature in an end of tournament report.

Doug Insole, who was on the ground, sits on the sub-committee of the International Cricket Council (ICC) that deals with bowling actions, and said that, so far as it were concerned, Muralitharan's "basic action" was legitimate. The word "basic" is important, for it is felt that Muralitharan's off-spinner comes out right, but his top-spinner is suspect. When the ICC has sifted through Van der Merwe's report and sat in judgment, again, on the off spinner with the freakish action, the world of cricket may be wiser. Or, given the division over his action, perhaps not.

One of the spectators in the ground on Saturday was an American, attending his first cricket match. What a day to pick.

SCOREBOARD AND DETAILS

Sri Lanka won toss

ENGLAND

N V Knight run out (Muralitharan) ... 45
(74 balls, 3 fours)
*†A J Stewart c Ranatunga b Vaas ... 39
(33 balls, 6 fours)
G A Hick not out ... 126
(118 balls, 4 sixes, 5 fours)
N Hussain c Tillekeratne b Jayasuriya ... 5
(7 balls, 1 four)
N H Fairbrother not out ... 78
(71 balls, 2 sixes, 4 fours)
Extras (lb 2, w 4, nb 3) ... 9
Total (3 wkts, 50 overs, 212min) ... 302

V J Wells, A J Hollioake, M A Ealham, R D B Croft, D Gough and A D Mullally did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-64 (Knight 23), 2-139 (Hick 49), 3-148 (Hick 53)

BOWLING: Vaas 10-0-76-1 (nb 2, 2 sixes, 9 fours, 6-0-27-1, 2-0-11-0, 2-0-38-0); Wickremasinghe 9-0-71-0 (w 1, 1 six, 6 fours; 3-0-28-0, 3-0-13-0, 2-0-17-0, 1-0-15-0); Jayawardene 4-0-24-0 (w 1; 2 fours; one spell); Muralitharan 7-0-46-0 (nb 1, w 1; 3 sixes; 2-0-9-0, 3-0-20-0, 2-0-17-0); Jayasuriya 10-0-42-1 (1 four; 1-0-5-0, 5-0-17-1, 4-0-20-0); Chandana 10-0-41-0 (w 1, 1 four, one spell).

Score after 15 overs: 86 for 1

SCORING NOTE: Play delayed for 13min after square-leg umpire Emerson called Muralitharan's tenth delivery for throwing (England 98-1 after 17.3 overs at 3.23pm). Innings time extended by 15min to compensate.

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Fairbrother b Gough ... 51
(36 balls, 2 sixes, 6 fours)
†R S Kaluwitharana run out (Hollioake) ... 0
(0 balls)
M S Atapattu c Fairbrother b Mullally ... 3
(12 balls)
H P Tillekeratne b Croft ... 28
(48 balls, 1 four)
D P M D Jayawardene lbw b Wells ... 120
(111 balls, 9 fours)
*A Ranatunga c Wells b Gough ... 41
(51 balls, 2 fours)
W P U C J Vaas run out (Hussain) ... 5
(6 balls)
U D U Chandana c Fairbrother b Wells ... 25
(18 balls, 1 six, 1 four)
R S Mahanama run out (Fairbrother) ... 13
(11 balls, 2 fours)
M Muralitharan not out ... 2
(4 balls)
G P Wickremasinghe not out ... 2
(2 balls)
Extras (lb 9, w 4) ... 13
Total (9 wkts, 49.4 overs, 229min) ... 303

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3 (Jayasuriya 3), 2-8 (Jayasuriya 4), 3-68 (Tillekeratne 11), 4-137 (Jayawardene 50), 5-223 (Jayawardene 91), 6-235 (Jayawardene 98), 7-269 (Chandana 11), 8-288 (Mahanama 4), 9-298 (Muralitharan 1).

BOWLING: Gough 10-1-58-2 (3 sixes, 4 fours; 6-1-43-1, 2-0-8-1, 2-0-17-0); Mullally 10-0-61-1 (w 1; 8 fours; 7-0-40-1, 3-0-21-0); Hollioake 5-0-45-0 (6 fours; 2-0-22-0, 2-0-15-0, 1-0-8-0); Ealham 10-1-49-0 (w 2; 2 fours; one spell); Croft 10-0-42-1 (1 four, one spell); Wells 4.4-0-30-2 (w 1, 2 fours; one spell).

Score after 15 overs: 108 for 3

Sri Lanka won by one wicket

Match award: D P M D Jayawardene.

Umpires: R A Emerson and A J McQuillan. Third umpire: S J Davis.

Referee: P L van der Merwe (South Africa).

	P	W	L	Pts
England	6	4	2	8
Sri Lanka	6	3	3	6
Australia	6	2	4	4

ENGLAND MATCHES TO COME: Jan 26: v Australia (Adelaide). Jan 29: v Sri Lanka (Perth). Feb 3: v Sri Lanka (Sydney). Feb 5: v Australia (Sydney). Feb 10: First final (Sydney). Feb 12: Second final (Melbourne). Feb 14: Third final (Melbourne)

☐ Compiled by Bill Frindall

Graveney holds talks to cool the tempers

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN ADELAIDE

DAVID GRAVENEY, the England tour manager, responded to the unpleasantness during the ill-tempered game with Sri Lanka on Saturday by meeting Peter van der Merwe, the match referee, yesterday, along with Alec Stewart and David Lloyd, the captain and coach. Afterwards, he issued a statement, cleared by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in London, which emphasised the desire to return to healthy competition.

The England representatives accepted the referee's concern about the general atmosphere and Graveney has reminded Stewart that, as captain, he is responsible for his team's conduct. But he admitted that there had been no contact with the Sri Lanka team, or any of its representatives.

There was a closing of ranks around Stewart, who barged into Mahanama on Saturday evening but who will not be carpeted by Van der Merwe today. According to Stewart, it was "the least enjoyable game of cricket I have ever been involved in — and I know that is a view shared by all those in my team".

Graveney, a good-natured man of easy charm and gentle humour, makes an ideal diplomat in such trying circumstances, but even he looked a bit chastened yesterday, so poor were relations between the teams the day before. He spent much of his time on the phone to Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, briefing him on the whys and wherefores of the match.

"I tried to explain the circumstances and the mood in which the game was played," he said. "We were perceived as being sucked into incidents and, as cricketers, you have to concentrate on the game. It was the most extraordinary match I have witnessed, as a player or as somebody who simply observes the game."

Of Stewart, he said: "I have stressed to Alec the responsibilities he has under Law 42:1, namely that the captain is responsible at all times for ensuring play is conducted within the spirit of the game as well as within the Laws."

"We all agree that events during Saturday's match have no place on a cricket field. We have accepted that and I have given clear instructions to Alec and all the players to ensure we are not involved in anything similar again. From our point of view, the matter is now closed and we are all keen to put the match behind us."

Stewart said: "I am fully aware of and accept my responsibilities as England captain and will be doing everything possible to make sure that myself and my team conduct ourselves in an appropriate fashion in the remaining matches in the series and beyond."

It was a shame that the many controversial incidents clouded the more attractive aspects of a match that Sri Lanka won after a terrific run chase. There were two balls left when Muralitharan, of all people, clouted the winning run.

They could not have won without a superb hundred by Jayawardene, building on the early work of Jayasuriya, who had walloped a scintillating 34-ball half-century. There were also useful contributions from Ranatunga and Chandana as Sri Lanka overcame a poor start of eight for two.

From England's point of view, it was another day of glory for Hick, who followed his hundred against Australia in Sydney with 126 not out. He made 154 unbeaten runs with Fairbrother for the fourth wicket, 53 coming off the last three overs with an incredible display of judicious hitting. Hick struck four sixes, all to leg, with big swings of the bat. Fairbrother finished on 78 and proceeded to hold three catches and effect a run-out.

IAN WALDIE



Stewart shakes hands with Muralitharan after the Sri Lankan had hit the winning run

McGrath in control

GLENN McGRATH, the seam bowler, took five wickets as Australia inflicted an 80-run defeat on Sri Lanka in the Carlton and United series at Adelaide yesterday.

Australia were all out for 270 from the last ball of their 50 overs, but went on to dismiss the World Cup-holders for 190 in 41.4 overs. McGrath, pictured right, took five for 40 to finish with his best one-day international figures.

The win left Australia in second place in the triangular series, two points behind England, with Sri Lanka bottom, despite their controversial win over England on Saturday.

The visitors were 30 for three in the seventh over when Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, was booed on to the ground as he came into bat, one day after he had led his team from the pitch against England. Ranatunga faced two deliveries before McGrath struck again and he was caught for a duck.

Time ticks for England

FROM THRASY PETROPOULOS IN HARARE

ENGLAND A travel to Kwekwe this morning, relieved, at last, to have completed a cricket match against Mashonaland but wary that time is running out before the first unofficial Test match early next month. Awaiting them will be a strong President's XI side, against whom they will play a four-day match, starting tomorrow.

The choice of Kwekwe, a former mining settlement two hours' drive west of Harare and remarkable for little more than a century-old papier mâché house — Zimbabwe's first prefabricated building — as a venue for this match had caused raised eyebrows when it was first announced.

The frustration of the Old Hararians' ground, where three days of fine weather were wasted as overnight rain leaked under the covers, causing the cancellation of the four-day match against Mashonaland, led to the tour management seeking assurances about the suitability of conditions in Kwekwe. Those assurances have been given, apparently.

The limited-overs match that was finally possible against Mashonaland brought England A victory by 73 runs, an unexpectedly comfortable margin after the tourists had been dismissed for 159. The province's much vaunted Test-class batting line-up could manage only a meagre 86 runs between them, plainly unable to come to terms with an unpredictable pitch and tight, penetrative bowling from Jason Lewry, Steve Harmison and Graeme Swann, who each took two wickets.

Scoreboards ... 39

Encouraging though it may have been, the tourists will be only too well aware that two completed one-day matches are hardly ideal preparation for the tougher challenges to come.

"Everything we've done so far has unfortunately been one-day cricket, not the preparation for a Test match in ten days' time," John Emburey, the tour coach, said, "but the four-day game in Kwekwe will be a big game and you can more or less say that the Test team will come from the majority of those players.

"It will be difficult for the guys who don't play in Kwekwe but play in that first Test match. Because we are going to give everyone a game in one of the two Tests, there are going to be a few players who are not going to get any cricket between now and the second Test. Some of them won't have played any cricket before that anyway, so their first first-class innings is going to be in a Test match."

Emburey also confirmed that no replacement has been called for Paul Hutchison, the Yorkshire left-arm seamer, who is sidelined for at least two weeks after damaging his lower back bowling in the nets.

The players were given the entire day off yesterday, a rare luxury in a congested itinerary. One group chartered an aeroplane to visit the Victoria Falls and the rest opted for a day's fishing.

Gatting's spinners take six

THE England Under-19 spinners set up an encouraging first day on tour in New Zealand for Mike Gatting's team, taking six Auckland Emerging Players' wickets between them.

Graham Bridge and Robert Dawson undermined the hosts sufficiently to bowl them out for 209, before England reached 66 without loss in reply by stumps at Wellington. Richard King top-scored with 66 for the Emerging Players, but the England openers, Ian Flanagan and Michael Gough, the captain, quickly put the hosts' struggles into context with knocks of 36 and 30 respectively.

Gatting was pleased with the first showing of his team. "This is the nucleus for the World Youth Cup defence in India in 2000," he said.

Relief for West Indies

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

EAST LONDON (South Africa won toss): West Indies beat South Africa by 43 runs

CARL HOOPER and Shivnarine Chanderpaul hammered centuries as West Indies levelled the seven-match limited-overs international series against South Africa by winning the second match by 43 runs at Buffalo Park, East London, yesterday.

Chanderpaul made 150 and Hooper 108 as West Indies piled up 292 for nine after being sent in to bat by Hansie Cronje. Amid the high scoring, Shaun Pollock, the South Africa all-rounder, finished with six for 35, his best figures in a one-day international.

South Africa were quickly reduced to 18 for three. Despite half-centuries by Jacques Kallis and Mark Boucher and a typically robust innings of 46 by Lance Klusener, the home side were never on target to repeat the sensational run chase that enabled them to win the rain-shortened first limited-overs match at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Friday.

Hooper completed a memorable all-round display by dismissing Cronje and Jonty Rhodes, the key men in the South Africa middle order, with his off spin. South Africa were all out for 249 with 3.1 overs left. It was the first win over South Africa for the West Indies on a tour that has been beset by controversy from its outset and saw them slump to their first whitewash as they were beaten in all five Test matches.

Records tumbled as Chanderpaul and Hooper enabled their side to recover from a disastrous start in which Pollock dismissed Philo Wallace and Nixon McLean, the fast bowler promoted as a pinch-hitter, in the first over.



Chanderpaul: record

Their fourth-wicket partnership of 226 was the best for any wicket for the West Indies and Chanderpaul recorded the highest score made against South Africa in a limited-overs international.

Chanderpaul and Hooper, team-mates for Guyana, surpassed one of the proudest West Indies records when they overhauled the fourth-wicket record of 149 between Clive Lloyd and Rohan Kanhai that provided the foundation for the West Indies triumph against Australia in the 1975 World Cup final at Lord's.

They then beat the West Indies record for any wicket when they went past the 221 scored by Gordon Greenidge and Viv Richards for the second wicket against India in Jamshedpur in 1983-84.

Chanderpaul's 150 bettered the 122 scored by Phil Simmons in Kingston, Jamaica in 1991-92, which had been the highest individual score made against South Africa.

Pakistan batsmen struggle

PAKISTAN suffered an embarrassing batting collapse against India A in Gwalior yesterday on the second day of the opening match of their tour.

After Wasim Akram, the captain, took five wickets to give the touring side a 58-run lead, Pakistan lost four wickets for eight runs to slide to 23 for five in their second innings. An unbroken partnership between Inzamam-ul-Haq and Salim Malik rescued the situation to take Pakistan to 107 for five at the close for an overall lead of 165.

Laxmi Shukla, the 17-year-old all-rounder, justified his inclusion in India's 14-man squad for the first Test, which starts on Thursday in Madras, with three wickets, while Dodda Ganesh, took the other two wickets to fall.



Poom, the Derby goalkeeper, takes the ball off Alsop's head

Swansea City	0
Derby County	1

Carbonari silences Welsh choir

BY ROB HUGHES

IN 135 years, the FA Cup has seen and heard it all, but down at the Vetch Field on Saturday, the ad hoc grandstand male voice choir was something else — necks the size of Mike Tyson, beer-bellies overhanging the seats in front of them, repertoire more Barmy Army than Eisteddfod. "Stand up if you hate Cardiff," was the recurring refrain, although it was when Cyril the Swan came to salute them that they really hit the high notes.

Grown men pouring out their undying affection for a cartoon caricature bird ... strange times indeed on the Gower Coast. And try though the stewards did to persuade them to be seated, it became a cause as lost as the Cup-tie when the mass of the crowd, from elderly to very young, stood and sang and swayed with the hard core.

If anything was more incessant, it was the wind and rain billowing off the sea, turning the pitch into a bog. If anything demanded more energy, it was wave after remorseless wave of Swansea City advances. And if anything was more certain, it was that a foreigner would steal the day for Derby County.

The visitors had what West Ham United lacked on this pitch ten days previously: the heart and discipline to soak up Swansea's passion and break, just once but decisively, to score. One exquisite act, defying the quagmire surface, showed what separates the FA Carling Premiership from the rest. It was Argentinian, composed and transcended an otherwise equal struggle.

For 80 minutes, Horacio Angel Carbonari, who cost Derby £2.7 million from Rosario Central, had defended sometimes close to the end of his tether against rain splashing into his face and Julian Alsop, the target of every aerial Swansea raid. But in the 81st, up for a free kick from Lee Carsley, the slender, angular Argentinian controlled the moving ball on the left side of the Swansea penalty box.

"We needed a moment of magic to finish a dour contest," Jim Smith, the Derby manager, said. "Carbonari gave us that. A couple of dummies, a little chip and he picks out Kevin Harper at the far post. I have to admit, I was concerned we could go the same way as West Ham."

Smith's praise is too short, his description too crisp. What Carbonari did was to demonstrate, against opponents who had given their all and were as much mentally as physically tired, the value of being comfortable with the ball at both feet. He shimmied to the left, stopped, checked. He shimmied to the right, and stopped again — and, when enough defenders were drawn to him, he guided the ball deftly to Harper, a substitute full of pace and running, to head the solitary goal of a gloomy afternoon.

The Vetch Field choir went quiet. But gloom? There is no likelihood of it lasting with John Hollins around. The Swansea manager, the twelfth to be appointed since the extraordinary reign of John Toshack, Hollins exudes a boyish joy at being back in full-time football after almost a decade away, relish even at the shoestring lower end of the league.

As a Chelsea player, he radiated enthusiasm; as a manager, he is essentially a teacher raising the standards of his players. "The dream has gone," he said on Saturday night. "Now it's back to reality. After three games against Premiership teams, we lost by one goal against Italians, Germans, you name it.

"Of course, they're downhearted in the dressing-room, because it hurts, but we'll pick them up and see if they can translate the cup form into the league. I was thrilled watching Stuart Roberts, a lad barely out of school, run at international players on the wing. I had two players, Kris O'Leary and Damien Lacey, with almost no experience, finding the pace of that match.

"OK, if we want to get up, we'll have to work on things, like seeing if we can add a bit of finesse to big Julian Alsop. We'll be in on Monday, starting to do that."

Derby had one chance and made it count. Swansea lacked the player whose goal finished off West Ham. Martin Thomas was in a Swindon hospital where, on Saturday, he had three operations — on a cartilage and ligament in the knee and a hernia in the stomach, the legacy of persevering through pain for 85 minutes against West Ham.

"He sent a fax," Hollins said, "and the lads wanted to run their hearts out for Martin today." They did that, it was not enough, yet Saturday was awash with hope, from a manager in revival to schoolboys, cygnets from nine years upwards, who want to be swans. The ground was awash with them and the Cup, a passing glory, came and went without harming the dream.

SWANSEA CITY (4-4-2): R Freestone — S Jones, K O'Leary, M Bound, M Howard — S Roberts, D Lacey, N Cusack, J Coates (sub: R Appleby, 88min) — J Alsop, S Watkin.
DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): M Poom — S Prior, H Carbonari, S Schnoor — J Laursen, L Bohinen (sub: R Kozluk, 87), L Carsley, A Dorigo — F Baiano (sub: S Elliott, 65) — D Burton (sub: K Harper, 44), D Sturridge.
Referee: G Barber.

FA Cup: Keegan's men go to top of class with stirring victory as Collymore sits it out

Fulham come up with the right answers

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: MARC ASPLAND







Agony and ecstasy: Gregory, left, has a look of disbelief as Hayward's free kick takes a wicked deflection for the second goal at Villa Park to leave Keegan celebrating his club's finest victory for many a year

Aston Villa	0
Fulham	2

BY ALYSON RUDD

THERE are some pupils who skip a grade at school because they are bright and need to be challenged. At present, Fulham are just too clever for the Nationwide League second division and, while they sometimes plod with disinterest through it, they usually come top in all the tests.

On Saturday, though, Kevin Keegan, the club's special tutor and so much more than his title of chief operating officer suggests, said: "We were asked different questions today." Fulham relished answering them.

So far this season, Fulham have beaten Southampton home and away in the two cup competitions. Fulham were slightly outclassed by Liverpool, but not embarrassed, and now they have won 2-0 at Villa Park. It is customary to ask, when a first-division side takes on an FA Carling Premiership club, whether that team could cope in the upper echelons. But is rare indeed to be wondering the same about one from the second division.

Against Villa, it was Fulham who entertained, excelled, looked comfortable. Keegan said that Villa supporters approached him to tell him that no other team had played so well at Villa Park this season. Indeed, this was the first time that John Gregory's team had been prevented from scoring at home. Even the dazzling Celta Vigo, who dispatched both Villa and Liverpool from the Uefa Cup, could not stop Stan Collymore snatching a goal.

Ah, Stan. All afternoon, the cry could be heard: "Where is Stan?" Slowly, the truth emerged. It was like one of those episodes of *Cracker*, where a strong-willed witness, intent on silence, is persuaded to part with little gems of insight. Gregory wanted to leave the issue at "no comment", but in the end he revealed that the controversial striker had been named as a substitute, that Gregory had been forced to alter the names on the bench and that Collymore was not injured.

A picture thus emerged of Collymore, fully expecting to be Joachim's striking partner, discovering that he could not make the team even with Dion Dublin injured and refusing to play at all.

Gregory said that Collymore still has a future at the club — "he's under contract" — but that he would not be part of his plans for Villa's next match, at St James' Park.

It is possible to view the incident as a defining moment in Collymore's chequered career. He will now either part company with the club he loved as a boy and which was supposed to soothe his tortured soul, or he will face up to the fact that he needs to improve his form before he can count himself on a par with Joachim and Dublin. Against Fulham, even a partially effective Collymore would have been useful. Merson partnered Joachim and displayed some neat touches in the first half, but, by the second period, he was looking tired and clumsy. And is there any sense in playing both Hendrie and Merson, who have similar styles and serve a similar function, when Hendrie is presently the fitter and more effective of the pair?

The importance of a good target man was illustrated by Geoff Horsfield, of Fulham. The former bricklayer was completely in charge whenever he had his back to goal and, try as Ehiogu might, he could not prevent Horsfield laying off the ball. One particularly perceptive reverse pass put Collins free inside the penalty area, but he mistimed his strike.

Although both goals came from set-pieces, Simon Morgan with a ruthless header from a corner by Steve Hayward and Hayward with a free kick that was deflected past Oakes by Peschisolido, there was a confident fluidity to the visitors' attacking play. Keegan promised that they would not employ negative tactics, but Fulham were inventive without being reckless and often left Peschisolido to weave forward without support, mindful of the danger that Villa pose on the counter-attack.

Today, Philippe Albert begins life on loan at Craven Cottage. He will be lucky to see much first-team action, for the Fulham defence was outstanding. On the rare occasions that Joachim did manage to slip his marker, Maik Taylor, in goal, was alert.

Gregory was adamant that nothing had affected his team's morale before kick-off and he praised the initial efforts of the Villa side. Surely, though, the sudden departure of Collymore had some impact.

Most of the home side's passing was, at best, half-hearted and motivation seemed to be a fleeting visitor. Nor was the controversy a one-off mishap. Merson had only just made up with his manager after misunderstandings relayed in the media about the player's rehabilitation and a clutch of players have found the transition from no-hopers to title-chasers problematic, for, suddenly, it has made competition for places an issue. Gregory has shown that patience is rewarded if harnessed to ability, with Joachim the prime example of a player who whined a little, then waited, then scored, then became a certainty.

For all Collymore's transgressions, his comments last week were relatively mild — he simply wants first-team football. The real issue is whether he is good enough to be given any.

ASTON VILLA (3-5-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, G Southgate, G Barry — S Watson, R Scimeca, I Taylor, L Hendrie, A Wright (sub: D Vassell, 58min) — P Merson, J Joachim.
FULHAM (3-5-2): M Taylor — K Symons, S Morgan, C Coleman — S Finnan, W Collins, P Bracewell, S Hayward, R Brevett — P Peschisolido (sub: N Smith, 82), G Horsfield.
Referee: D Elleray.

Everton fired by sense of injustice

Everton	1
Ipswich Town	0

BY KEVIN MCCARRA

AS FA Cup engagements go, this was not an affair of flashing swords and daring raids so much as a case of trench warfare. Each sliver of territory was gained arduously and there were heavy losses as Everton edged their way to victory. Casualties included Marco Materazzi, the Everton centre half, who was sent off, and the good humour of the home supporters.

At full-time, a phalanx of stewards surrounded Mike Riley as he left the field. It looked like the entourage that leads a boxer to the ring, but they were actually trying to spare the official a punch-up. At least he antagonises on an equal opportunity basis. In stoppage time, Ipswich Town believed that they had equalised with a drive from Fabian Wilnis, but Riley had seen a foul on David Unsworth by Richard Naylor in the build-up.

One might be grateful to the referee for turning an inconsequential match into an impassioned conflict, were it not for the fact that he exceeded his brief by doing so. With Everton 1-0 ahead, David Johnson and Materazzi, in the 48th minute, jostled one another while pursuing the ball and the Ipswich forward reacted by pushing his marker to the ground. Riley showed each man a yellow card and the Italian, who had been booked already, was thus dismissed.

Although Ipswich's prospects had improved, Everton turned the incident into a cause and defended as if each tackle was a righteous blow against injustice. The heedless challenges of Unsworth were alarming, particularly when conducted inside his own penalty area, but the indignant resistance worked. The visitors rarely looked like scoring and George Burley, their manager, may have been recognising his team's inferiority when he made only a mild complaint over the referee's disinclination to award an equaliser.

The most intemperate act of all by the inflamed Unsworth came when he barged Don Hutchinson aside and insisted on attempting a pass himself. Increasingly, Everton are happy to leave distribution to the midfield player. At the start of the season, Hutchison seemed to be a candidate for redundancy at Goodison Park, but the strength, leadership and discernment that he has shown since brought him the captaincy after Duncan Ferguson was sold. After 38 minutes, he chased to keep the ball in play, before delivering the cross that John Oster headed against the post. It bounced back into the path of Nick Barmby, who recorded his first goal at Goodison since October 1997. It was Hutchison, too, whose exquisite timing released Michael Branch with ten minutes remaining, but the substitute fired wide.

Had it not been for Michael Ball's mistake before the ordering-off of Materazzi, when he hit the top of the crossbar from six yards, Everton would have won comfortably. They were without eight players and Alex Cleland, after tearing a calf muscle, will be out for six weeks, but the team's spirit has not been diminished. As in the last round, away to Bristol City, Everton were supposed to be vulnerable. On each occasion, they have prevailed. The vultures must look elsewhere for carcasses.

EVERTON (3-5-2): T Myhre — A Cleland (sub: J O'Kane, 88min), M Materazzi, D Unsworth — M Ward, A Grant, D Hutchison, N Barmby, M Ball — D Cadamarteri (sub: M Branch, 75), J Oster.
IPSWICH TOWN (3-5-2): R Wright — M Thetis (sub: A Tanner, 85), A Mowbray, M Venus — F Wilnis, K Dyer, M Stockwell (sub: T Bramble, 78), M Holland, J Clapham — B Petta (sub: R Naylor, 46), D Johnson.
Referee: M Riley.

Newcastle ride the storm

Newcastle United	3
Bradford City	0

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

THE charm offensive began over diet cola and canapés in a restaurant adjacent to Durham County Cricket Club at the end of last week. Ruud Gullit and members of the written media brought together to lay out the ground-rules for a more harmonious relationship, to lower the barriers that have built up between Newcastle United and its supporters.

Although it was an informal, off-the-record engagement, there was little that Gullit had not discussed in public before. It was imperative that the club should look forward, he said, that the agenda should not be set by a few Luddite malcontents. Besides, he was happy. The future looks good. Everybody smiled, shook hands and said what a worthwhile exercise the evening had been.

It is in keeping with the spirit of this new concordat that we begin today with the good news from St James' Park. Newcastle, having overcome Bradford City's genuine and tenacious challenge, are, for the second consecutive season, in the last 16 of the FA Cup. Even better, they scored three times, with Alan Shearer — far from clinging to the memory of his career — looking particularly taut and effective.



Shearer: effective

It was Shearer (alleged training ground bust-up), who initiated his side's first goal, providing a neat flick for Temuri Ketsbaia (unlikely to have his work permit renewed). The Georgian's shot was blocked, but Dietmar Hamann (unsettled on Tyneside, thrown out of a nightclub) was well-placed to prod home the rebound.

The Newcastle manager's pep-talk was on Thursday, but this is Monday, time aplenty for the drip, drip of malevolence that seeps from the club's every pore to reform into a torrent. Wherever you look, there is unrest: a dressing-room riven at the hinges, an uncertain ownership and a manager unable to weld the disparate parties. It is not all Gullit's fault, but, in certain areas, his reasoning has been questionable. With comments such as "relegation team", the Dutchman has not enamoured himself to all his players.

It may seem unfair that the win on Saturday should be placed in this context, but such is the truth. On two occasions, Shearer, who scored a well-worked goal, brushed past his manager without making eye contact, while Ketsbaia's flattering intervention prompted only gloomy introspection. "When I make a mistake, I seem to be out of the team for months," he said. If Stuart McCall had not glanced a header against a post with the score at 1-0, it might have been worse, but, as things stand, the tension at Newcastle is becoming almost intolerable.

Something has to give. Someone has to leave. Kevin Keegan, fresh from Fulham's success, his legend undimmed, is back on Tyneside for Peter Beardsley's testimonial in two days. And now for the bad news.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-2): S Given — A Griffin, L Charvet, N Dabizas, D Domi — N Solano (sub: S Glass, 46min), D Hamann, G Speed, G Brady — A Shearer, T Ketsbaia.
BRADFORD CITY (4-4-2): G Walsh — S Wright (sub: I Rankin, 66), D Moore, A Westwood, W Jacobs — J Lawrence, S McCall, G Whalley, P Beagrie — R Blake, L Mills.
Referee: P Durkin.

Desailly puts end to speculation

MARCEL DESAILLY has given Chelsea a boost before their FA Cup fourth-round tie against Oxford United at the Manor Ground tonight by saying that he has no intention of leaving the club at the end of the season.

Desailly had been quoted as having said that he could spring a "surprise" by quitting Stamford Bridge if Chelsea won the FA Carling Premiership. However, on his return to London after playing for France against Morocco, the defender insisted that his comments had been taken out of context.

"It's been a lot of noise over nothing," Desailly said. "It's true that I said I would leave Chelsea one day and that it is better to go after winning — but that's all. I'm here to win something and after that we will see. I have a four-year contract here."

Chelsea have Ferrer suspended and Babayaro unavailable, but Oxford have bigger problems, on and off the pitch. Financially crippled and struggling in the Nationwide League first division, they are also without Gerrard and Beauchamp tonight.

Coventry counter loss of Boateng

Leicester City	0
Coventry City	3

BY KEITH PIKE

IT IS four years to the day since a referee, with a simple flourish of a little red card at a combustible Frenchman, set in motion the chain of events that moved football from the back pages to the front (plus pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 12-18 inclusive and a souvenir supplement) and the leading "bong" on *News at Ten*. At Filbert Street on Saturday, the anniversary was marked in eerily contentious circumstances.

Memories were jogged when the PA announcer reminded Leicester City supporters of one of their favourite old chants: "Who needs Cantona when you've got Ormondroyd?" On the pitch, Richard Shaw — once of Crystal Palace and the first person to feel the sharpness of Cantona's studs that momentous night at Selhurst Park — was doing his best to marshal the Coventry City defence. And then Alan Wilkie — yes, the very same official — sent off another, albeit less celebrated, Premiership import, George Boateng. Spooky, or what?

Fortunately, Boateng, Shaw's Dutch team-mate, did not feel compelled to launch himself clogs first into the crowd, although he had some reason to feel a trifle miffed. His dismissal was the pivotal moment on an increasingly bizarre afternoon in which Coventry, according to the scoreline, breezed into the fifth round of the FA Cup. In truth, they were blown there by several powerful gusts of good fortune.

Boateng was off the field of play when he earned the sixth yellow card of a fractious first half, leaping Michael Jordan-like to intercept when Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, tried to lob the ball to Guppy for a quick throw-in. Yellow No 7 followed two minutes later, when Boateng left Zagorakis in a crumpled heap on the edge of the area; from basketball to basket-case, it could be said. And so the die was cast.

Leading by Whelan's cleverly lofted goal in the seventeenth minute, Coventry decided that massed defence was their only option. Leicester, spurning enough good chances to win the whole competition, never mind one tie, failed abysmally to translate possession into goals and their neighbours twice broke the length of the pitch to score in second-half stoppage time, through Telfer and Froggatt, and add a preposterous twist to the score.

Not one for sardines or trawlers (or community service), Boateng was blunt. "I told the ref he was being childish over the first booking, but you could tell after 25 minutes that he was going to send someone off," he said. "The second booking was my first foul." Boateng will ask O'Neill, who insisted "it was not my intention to get anyone sent off" and who promised to study the video, to support an appeal.

The Leicester manager, though, has his own, more pressing concerns. While his team might easily have won — Elliott fluffed a first-half penalty, Heskey missed two clear openings and Izzet a brace of sitters — O'Neill's lack of squad depth, highlighted by Cottee's absence with a calf strain, is not so much acute as embarrassing. Should they lose to Sunderland in the semi-finals of the Worthington Cup — the first leg is at the Stadium of Light tomorrow — a season that promised so much will fall flat.

LEICESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): K Keller — F Sinclair, M Elliott, S Walsh, R Ullathorne (sub: G Taggart, 78min) — A Impey, T Zagorakis (sub: G Parker, 82), N Lennon, S Guppy — M Izzet — E Heskey.
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): M Hedman — M Edworthy, R Shaw, P Williams, D Burrows — G Boateng, T E Solvedt, G McAllister (sub: P Clement, 78), S Froggatt — D Huckerby (sub: P Telfer, 88), N Whelan.
Referee: A Wilkie.

FA Cup: Favourites scrape through at the death as holders make assured progress

Seconds out, round five for United

Manchester United......2
Liverpool......1

BY MATT DICKINSON

ALEX FERGUSON'S tension can normally be measured by the fury of his gum-chewing and, for 88 minutes yesterday, he looked to be in danger of gnawing off his tongue. Time was ebbing away and his Manchester United team could not match the vigour of a wonderfully — and unusually — vociferous Old Trafford crowd.

The plain facts of what happened in those final minutes are that Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored the goals that knocked Liverpool out of the FA Cup. How and why, though, were the cause of much head-scratching on Merseyside as the inquests began into a thrilling, if not epic, game.

Tiredness, bad defensive positioning and the referee were cited by Gérard Houllier as the principal reasons, while sheer determination by his own team was Ferguson's straightfoward verdict. Both managers were right, but it is United who march forward to the fifth round and their campaign remains alive on three fronts.

For Liverpool, the journey home meant the chance to reflect that they will once again be without silverware, but there was salvation to be found amid the wreckage yesterday. They may not win any honours, but they may yet finish the season with pride under Houllier's increasingly resolute leadership.

Laughed out of Wembley in their cream Armani suits the last time that they met United in this competition, yesterday they made their great rivals look like the ones all dressed up with nowhere to go, at least for much of the game.

It was impossible not to feel sympathy for the Liverpool players as they slumped to the ground at the final whistle. So roundly criticised for their indiscipline over recent seasons, they had stuck to orders with regimental regard. From Carragher, splendid at the back, to the efficient Redknapp in midfield and forward to Fowler, who repeatedly dropped back to make important tackles, they had, it seemed, replicated Houllier's game-plan to precision.

At least, they thought they had — and maybe that was the problem. Two late errors and the whole construction collapsed around them, but then that is always the danger when you are facing a side of United's attacking power. When a team can bring on substitutes of the match-changing potential of Scholes and Solskjaer, they can afford to leave things to injury time.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARC ASPLAND


Owen rises in front of Neville to head Liverpool into an early lead at Old Trafford yesterday, where two late goals won a thrilling FA Cup fourth-round tie for Manchester United

Solskjaer, whose winner came more than a minute into stoppage time (or "Ferguson time", as it is known by his rivals), has now scored more goals this season (11) than he has started games (9). "I'll have to give him more football," Ferguson said. He will need to if the Norwegian is to keep turning down offers, such as he has from Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United recently.

"The game lasted five minutes too long for us," Houllier said. "We had the chances to score a second goal and that could have made the difference."

Liverpool did not have to wait long for the first. The game was only three minutes old when Berger glided past Butt and fed the ball via Redknapp to Heggem. The wing back sped to the byline, from where he spotted Owen, unmarked, for a simple header.

"God almighty," Ferguson said later, so goodness knows what expletives he let fly about Berg's slackness at the time. "I wouldn't have thought a 5ft 6in striker would get a header at Old Trafford in the first five minutes."

Ferguson had to wait 20 minutes for his team to conjure much in response, a header by Keane hitting the post and then Ince on the goalline. It was a rare United cross that found its target, though, as Giggs and Beckham struggled to penetrate. Too many of their centres were chipped from deep, while Cole and Yorke lacked movement. Perhaps it was the early start.


Solskjaer scores United's dramatic late winner through a crowded goalmouth

The tensions were evident in the United bookings, which outnumbered Liverpool's by four to two. Never a vicious game, some of the tackles were still eye-watering, with Keane's lunge at Redknapp the worst of the bunch.

United's frustration was down to the number of misplaced passes and it was Liverpool who went closest to scoring, with Fowler shooting just over the bar and Berger forcing an excellent save from Schmeichel at close range.

Liverpool had defended deeply in the first half, but, after the interval, they allowed themselves to be pushed back to the point that they were treading on James's toes. Gradually, the number of United chances began to increase, with James rushing out of his box to thwart Cole, a shot by Keane deflecting wide and a strike from Cole looping off Carragher and just over the crossbar.

When Scholes replaced Butt after 68 minutes, United were exerting more influence and the loss of Ince through injury was debilitating to Liverpool. Keane hit the inside of the post and there were only two minutes left when Redknapp was adjudged to have fouled Johnsen, a decision that Houllier contested. "Maybe we showed a bit of inexperience by worrying about the decision instead of getting into position," he said. Beckham's chipped free kick was headed by Cole to Yorke for a simple side-foot finish. Solskjaer wrapped things up moments later.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, J Stam, H Berg (sub: R Johnsen, 80min), D Irwin (sub: O G Solskjaer, 80) — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt (sub: P Scholes, 68), R Giggs — A Cole, D Yorke

LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D James — J Carragher, D Matteo, S Harkness — V Heggem, J Redknapp, P Ince (sub: J McAteer, 71), P Berger, S I Bjornebye — R Fowler, M Owen

Referee: G Poll.

Petit provides latest blot on Arsenal character

Wolverhampton Wanderers......1
Arsenal......2

BY KEVIN McCARRA

FOR the FA Cup, clubs dress themselves in tradition like men donning period costume. The victors were to be draped with the venerable epithet of "Lucky Arsenal", having secured the win with a Dennis Bergkamp shot that hit one Wolverhampton Wanderers player and then Nicolas Anelka, his team-mate, before finding its way home. The Highbury club also displayed some disreputable traits of more recent vintage.

Emmanuel Petit was sent off in the 86th minute for a gesture of dissent at a linesman that brought a straight red card from Steve Dunn, the referee, rather then his second booking. It was the France midfield player's third dismissal since he joined the club and Arsenal's seventh of the season. In Arsène Wenger's period as manager, there have been 19 sendings-off.

"I am not happy with what happened on the field with the referee," Wenger said, adding that he did not know why Petit was sent off, despite feeling able to call the incident "a minor offence".

Wenger also reckoned that serious misconduct by the home side, which saw Bergkamp hit in the face, went unpunished. "We are not a dirty team," the manager insisted.

Whatever trouble they may incur with the authorities, Arsenal were also at odds with themselves. In a fitful performance, the Cup-holders imposed their authority fully only in the latter stages and, with the score at 1-1, Havard Flo had struck the post for Wolves. It may be that Arsenal, in common with most spectators, were misled by the ease with which the match began for them. Reality took a while to register.

It is one of the charms of the Cup that it pairs teams who know little of one another, but Wolves' apparent lack of familiarity with Arsenal's ways was outlandish with regard to the opening goal, in the tenth minute. The clubs might as well have come from separate continents rather than different divisions.

Statisticians will have to credit Tony Adams with an assist, even though he merely rolled the ball to Marc Overmars in the Arsenal half. The winger kept on running, stopping only when it was time to celebrate. As he approached the penalty area, defenders such as Mark Atkins and Keith Curle still kept their distance. Did they imagine that Overmars was incapable of finishing from there? They had allowed him as much time as a golfer requires to read the line of his putt and the Dutchman rolled a shot into the corner of the net.


You're off: Petit sarcastically applauds Dunn, the referee, after being dismissed at Molineux. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

The naivety of Wolves in that passage contributed to the delusion that they would be taken advantage of by Wenger's side. That theory proved to be a misconception, because Wolves did not suffer from the paralysing bashfulness that afflicted them in losing to Arsenal at the semi-final stage of this competition last season. The visitors, for a long spell, were unable to make any meaningful return to the attack.

With industry, Wolves were able to set up camp in the opposition's half. To do so, where Arsenal are concerned, can be rather like pitching tent in a soggy field in winter. There is little fun to be had. Impassive as ever, the Arsenal defence gave the impression that it would be its normal, stifling self. Exciting though Robbie Keane is, the teenage forward was usually forced to play in innocuous areas.

When it arrived, danger was triggered from an improbable distance. The long ball from Kevin Muscat, after 35 minutes, would have posed little difficulty had Alex Manninger not chosen to try to reach it. Matthew Upson, his centre half, rightly stood aside to allow the goalkeeper access, but Manninger never made contact and Flo, the Norway forward, scored his first goal for Wolves by heading in via the post. Rumbustiousness followed, with Muscat catching Bergkamp in the face with an elbow in one exchange, and Arsenal wavered.

Flo, in the 55th minute, eluded a defender to take Muscat's pass and fire against the inside of the post. All the same, the visitors flourished thereafter, establishing that they could respond to peril. Mike Stowell, the goalkeeper, saved from Dixon, Bergkamp and Overmars before being beaten in the 69th minute.

Remi Garde's corner was partially cleared and Bergkamp volleyed from 25 yards. Attempting to block, the head of Flo sent the ball brushing against Anelka's hip and into the net. Colin Lee's side cursed their ill-fortune, but it was the alleged profanity of Petit's gesture that was to register most dramatically yesterday afternoon.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M Stowell — M Atkins (sub: D Connolly, 90min), D Richards, K Curle, K Muscat — C Robinson (sub: S Sedgley, 81), N Emblen, S Osborn, M Gilkes (sub: P Simpson, 81) — R Keane, H Flo

ARSENAL (4-4-2): A Manninger — L Dixon, T Adams, M Upson, N Winterburn — R Parlour, R Garde (sub: N Vivas, 76), E Petit, M Overmars (sub: S Hughes, 90) — D Bergkamp, N Anelka (sub: G Grimandi, 87).

Referee: S Dunn

Arsenal draw comfort from home tie

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ARSENAL, the FA Cup holders, have endured a rough passage during their attempt to retain the trophy this season, so it was with some relief that they received a home tie in the fifth-round draw yesterday. They will play the winners of the delayed fourth-round match between Sheffield United and Cardiff City, which is being played at Bramall Lane on Wednesday.

In the third round, Arsenal trailed 2-0 against Preston North End, the Nationwide League second division side, before recovering to win 4-2. In the fourth round, at Molineux yesterday, they defeated Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-1 thanks to a late, deflected goal from Dennis Bergkamp.

"I'm just glad the next game is at Highbury," Lee Dixon, the Arsenal full back, said. "We've been away in our last two matches and it'll be nice to get back home."

On the strength of an apparently easy draw, Arsenal have been made second favourites, at 4-1, to win the Cup. Manchester United, who have been paired with Fulham, conquerors of Aston Villa on Saturday, at Old Trafford, head the field at 3-1.

Dixon, though, regarded the visit of Sheffield United or Cardiff with caution. United knocked Arsenal out of the Cup at the third-round stage three years ago, winning 1-0 at Bramall Lane after a 1-1 draw at Highbury, and Cardiff lead the third division by five points. "I remember the Sheffield games," he said, "and I wouldn't like that to happen again."

George Graham, the former Leeds United manager, who left the club only four months ago, would be assured a warm reception on his return to Elland Road if his Tottenham Hotspur side manage to overcome Wimbledon in their replay. The teams drew 1-1 at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

Chelsea, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, take on Oxford United, the struggling first-division side, at the Manor Ground tonight with a tie against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough awaiting the winners.

Of the other all-Premiership ties, Everton take on Coventry City at Goodison Park and Newcastle United meet Blackburn Rovers at St James' Park.

Bristol Rovers, the second division side, were disappointed with their draw away to Barnsley. "It would've been nice to have got Tottenham," Jason Roberts, the Rovers striker who scored twice in their 3-0 victory against Leyton Orient, said.

DRAW

Arsenal v Sheffield Utd or Cardiff
Wrexham or Huddersfield v Derby
Leeds v Wimbledon or Tottenham
Barnsley v Bristol Rovers
Sheff Wed v Oxford or Chelsea
Everton v Coventry
Newcastle v Blackburn
Manchester Utd v Fulham

☐ Ties to be played the weekend of February 13

Rovers deliver in purple patch

Bristol Rovers......3
Leyton Orient......0

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

YOU have heard, no doubt, the expression "a game of two halves"? This was a game of one-sixth. Seventy-five minutes of energetic but unspectacular stalemate were consigned to memory by three late goals as Bristol Rovers advanced to the FA Cup fifth round for the first time in 20 years.

Leyton Orient must have felt that they had drawn Rovers' sting when their marking of Jamie Cureton, scorer of four goals in their previous game, proved so effective that he was moved to the wing to allow the introduction as substitute of Gary Penrice, the player-coach. Moreover, in Amara Simba, the former France international, they had the most accomplished-looking forward on the field and had come closest to scoring through Alex Inglethorpe and Dean Smith.

It all counted for nothing. In the 76th minute, Jason Roberts shot in after Smith had cleared a Penrice effort off the goalline after a disputed free kick. David Lee then robbed Roger Joseph before driving in the second and Roberts volleyed the third via a post. Rovers could even have made it five with steadier finishing, but the Memorial Stadium's record crowd of 9,274 went home more than content.

"For 75 minutes, we matched them," Paul Clark, the Orient assistant manager, said. "We were disappointed that it came from a free kick that was questionable, but Gary Penrice told me that that's how things are going for them."

In fact, since victory over Welling United in the first round of the cup, Rovers have lost only one of their 13 games, a tribute to the remodelling of his side by Ian Holloway, the player-manager. "I'm very pleased with this squad that I'm getting together," he said. "We are all so young everywhere, but they are quality kids."

After overcoming three Nationwide League first division sides in the competition, as well as Welling, Holloway hoped the draw for the fifth round would give him a chance to test his young team against a higher calibre of opposition. But they might have to play well for more than 15 minutes.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): L Jones — D Pritchard, S Foster, M Trought, T Challis — R Trees, D Lee, I Holloway, M Meaker (sub: G Penrice, 68min) — J Cureton, J Roberts.

LEYTON ORIENT (5-3-2): C Mackenzie — W Watts, D Smith, S Clark, R Joseph, K Ampadu (sub: D Curran, 77) — D Beall, M Ling, M Lockwood (sub: J McDougald, 47) — A Inglethorpe, A Simba.

Referee: B Harris.

Carbone waves his magic wand

Sheffield Wednesday......2
Stockport County......0

BY MARTIN WOODS

DANNY WILSON, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, has been running the rule over Hugo Porfirio, the Benfica and Portugal striker. However, Wilson's main reservation about signing Porfirio concerns how it might affect the balance of his side. Apparently, he fears that Porfirio might be a clone of Benito Carbone; in which case, Wilson is a comedian.

After Saturday's performance against Stockport County, of the Nationwide League first division, the Wednesday manager would be well advised to lasso Porfirio's agent and agree to the original price that he had been quoted for the player.

For most of this season, Wednesday's sole attacking threat has been Carbone. On Saturday, the little magician contributed to Wednesday's breakthrough goal in the sixteenth minute, when he received Hinchcliffe's short corner and curled in a sweet cross that was headed home by Thome, and scored one of his patented exocets 57 minutes into the second half.

County could ill-afford to lose a goal to a set piece, let alone lose Dinning, their full back, to a pulled hamstring after just six minutes. Gary Megson, their manager, who twice reached the FA Cup semi-finals with Wednesday in the Eighties, persisted with the man-marking of Carbone.

Such a tactic might well have had appeal on the dressing-room's blackboard, but it was surely folly, given that even the cream of Serie A's defenders would probably find Carbone a handful in his present form.

Unfortunately, Wilson's side has struggled to reach top gear on two successive occasions this season and, but for some woeful finishing by County, the second half might have assumed the traditional characteristics of this historic competition. Apart from Carbone's goal, it was impossible to escape the sense of ennui. Talking of his little Italian, Wilson said: "He only wants people to believe in him and I certainly do that." Hillsborough, on Saturday, was no place for agnostics. Like Wembley, in fact.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY: (4-4-2) P Srnicek — P Atherton, D Walker (sub: J Newsome, 75min), E Thome, A Hinchcliffe — W Jonk, P Rudi, N Alexandersson, D Sonner — R Humphreys (sub: A Booth, 62) B Carbone

STOCKPORT COUNTY (5-3-2): C Nash — S Connelly, M Flynn, M McIntosh, P Cook, T Dinning (sub: J Gannon, 6) — W Phillips (sub: R Matthews, 69), D McInnes, C Woodthorpe — B Angell, I Moore

Referee: N Barry

Carbone: a magician who wants to be believed

FA Cup: Gallagher asked to explain his actions after Ginola hands over post-match gift

FA likely to throw the book at referee

Wimbledon	1
Tottenham Hotspur	1

By Matt Dickinson

WORKING for charity is not always a rewarding business, as Dermot Gallagher is about to find out. The referee left Selhurst Park on Saturday clutching David Ginola's shirt for a fund-raising auction, but whatever it costs the prospective buyer, it may have already cost Gallagher the chance to officiate the FA Cup fourth-round replay next week between these clubs.

The Football Association will write to the Banbury official this morning to "ask for his observations". In short, they will want to know why an experienced official was so stupid as to leave a game with a gift from a player.

Gallagher's charity explanation is, no doubt, an entirely honest one, but referees must be above suspicion and Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, could hardly be blamed for choking on his post-match cuppa when he saw Ginola and Gallagher exchanging more than post-match pleasantries in the tunnel.

There are guidelines for referees that they should not procure autographs, lifts and, quite sensibly, shirts from players before or after matches and, in breaking that code of conduct, Gallagher has put himself at the mercy of the FA and Wimbledon.

The home club mostly laughed off the incident on Saturday. "We are at a bit of disadvantage because I don't think too many referees are after Carl Leaburn's shirt," Robbie Earle said, but there was concern laced with his humour and the FA may feel they have no option than to remove Gallagher from the replay.

If Gallagher is demoted, it should be for another incident entirely. Last season, he became the first referee from the FA Carling Premiership to be suspended for his failure to send Steve Bould off for a scything tackle on Gianluca Vialli and this match saw him once again neglect his duties.

Justin Edinburgh had already been booked for a late tackle when, with five minutes left, he went through the back of Jason Euell's ankles. If not a malicious challenge, it still carried enough venom to put the Wimbledon forward out of the game and Gallagher's first reaction, quite properly, was to reach for his pocket. It appeared certain that he would brandish both yellow and red.

With George Graham, the Spurs manager, screaming his protests and Edinburgh putting on a look of choirboy innocence, Gallagher issued nothing more stern than a ticking-off and Kinnear spat out his frustrations.

Of course, no one wants to see the English game blighted, as the World Cup was, by needless dismissals and it was far from a dirty match, but when a referee so clearly neglects his responsibilities and fails to show consistency, it is no wonder that managers and players berate the game's officials.

At least it all offered something to talk about other than Ginola's diving. "He's stayed on his feet today," Kinnear said, "so maybe he can do it for the rest of his career. If I said things about him in the week, it was for the good of the game. He seems to have heeded it and cleaned up his act. Maybe he's been honest and looked at himself."

This was only the second encounter of five in a month between these clubs and they are already looking jaded. It was a dull cup-tie enlivened only by two wonderful goals.

Wimbledon went ahead after an hour with a goal of Jamaican flamboyance from Earle. When Leaburn's header looped across goal, it was behind the midfield player, but he twisted around and launched a spectacular overhead kick.

Trust Ginola to match it. Apart from a few flashes, he had been shackled well by Kenny Cunningham. Searching for some space, he drifted infield and a quick shimmy past Earle provided the room for a crisp, low drive from 20 yards. It looked so easy, one wondered why the Frenchman's scoring rate remains so low.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, C Perry, D Blackwell, B Thatcher — N Ardley (sub: C Cort, 75min), R Earle, A Roberts, M Hughes — C Leaburn, J Euell (sub: C Hughes, 86).
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — S Carr, R Vega, S Campbell, J Edinburgh — R Fox (sub: L Ferdinand, 73), D Anderton, S Freund, D Ginola — C Armstrong, S Iversen.
Referee: D Gallagher.


Ginola, centre, enjoys the moment after scoring an outstanding goal that earned Tottenham Hotspur a replay next week

Portsmouth lurch deeper into turmoil

Portsmouth	1
Leeds United	5

By Russell Kempson

PORTSMOUTH were up for the Cup, but the evidence of a deeper concern lay everywhere. Fly posters adorned the walls around Fratton Park, claiming that Martin Gregory, the owner and former chairman, was wanted for crimes against Portsmouth FC. "Approach with caution," prospective bounty hunters were warned.

The home fans warmed to the theme as the fourth-round tie progressed, bored with Leeds United's mounting goal tally and determined to put across their heartfelt message. "For Sale," read the leaflets they held aloft. "Would suit visionary businessman with an interest in local football," read the subtext.

In the match programme, too, the pleas to save Portsmouth — £5 million in debt, losing £5,000 a day, Inland Revenue owed £405,000 — kept on coming. Michael Sotnick's letter, reproduced photographically, was touching.

"I am very worried about what is happening to my club," he wrote. "I have an idea ... I want to give all my pocket money I have saved to the club and my dad says that if every supporter does the same, we will all be able to buy Portsmouth Football Club. Then this terrible thing will not happen again. I will always support Pompey. I hope they will not die." Michael, from Waterlooville, is 7½.

Portsmouth went ahead in the ninth minute, when Nightingale finished off the good work of Peron and Claridge, but the Pompey Chimes were soon silenced.

Hopkin took a short corner, Harte crossed from the left and Wetherall nodded in unmolested at the far post. Within four minutes, the FA Carling Premiership side were in front. Igoe needlessly fouled Kewell on the edge of the area and Harte's rapier thrust flew past Knight.

From then on, Leeds lolloped into the fifth round almost with contempt, despite lacking Bowyer, McPhail, Smith, Radebe, Molenaar, Hiden, Haaland and Batty because of injury, suspension and international duty.

At times in the second half, Kewell, 20, caressed the ball around with his left foot, Woodgate, 19, strolled in defence and Jones, 18, scampered in midfield, on his first-team debut.

"It was case of the babies looking after the younger babies," David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, said. "I was very proud of them. I've had to flog them a bit recently, more than I'd like to, but they are a great bunch. I'm their friend, I'll look after them."

Kewell slapped in Hasselbaink's cross, Ribeiro's shot deflected wickedly over Knight via Whitbread, and Wijnhard tucked in Kewell's long-range pass. It could have been more as Portsmouth fell apart and incurred, rather unfairly, the wrath of Alan Ball, their manager. "I'd like to have at least thrown a few punches in defeat," he said. "We were woeful in the second half."

The Leeds fans filed out cheerily, while those of Portsmouth aimed a few more derogatory chants at Gregory and pledged their loyalty to the cause. Among them, as always, was Michael Sotnick, 7½.

PORTSMOUTH (4-4-2): A Knight — M Robinson, D Waterman (sub: M Phillips, 56min), A Whitbread, M Vlachos — S Igoe, A McLoughlin, J Peron, F Simpson — S Claridge, L Nightingale (sub: T Thorgersen, 73).
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N Martyn — I Harte, D Wetherall, J Woodgate, D Granville (sub: M Jones, 46) — H Kewell, G Halle (sub: T Knarvik, 88), D Hopkin, B Ribeiro — W Korsten (sub: C Wijnhard, 63), J F Hasselbaink.
Referee: G Willard.

Alcock pushed into spotlight

Barnsley	3
Bournemouth	1

By Peter Robinson

AT 2.30pm, a voice boomed across the press room at Oakwell. "Gentlemen, before you all run away, you should know that the referee will not be giving interviews."

So what? "It's Alcock," somebody whispered.

Oh, *that* Alcock. Paul Alcock, as in Paolo Di Canio, as in falling over at Hillsborough. "It's his first game back," somebody said and suddenly a Saturday afternoon of little promise was looking up.

Sadly, it was not his first game since September 26, he had four afterwards, but his last match was Boreham Wood v Luton Town in the first round of the FA Cup on November 15 and, after that, a herniated disc proved to be too painful and he was signed off games. This was his first senior fixture since then.

There was some irony in the fact that his return was not far from Sheffield, scene of the defining moment of his season, that he had to make almost the same drive up the M1 to this game as he did that day — what must he have been thinking? And this was clearly a big deal, otherwise why the protective cloak wrapped around him to ensure that the dreaded *meejah* did not ruin his day by asking: "How was it for you, Mr Alcock? Glad to be back?"

So, a few minutes before 3pm all eyes were on the little chap leading out the teams. He blew his nose in the centre circle, got through the pleasantries and there were 13 minutes of ref-watching until Barnsley scored — Sheridan driving in a loose ball — and everybody remembered that this was a Cup-tie.

Five minutes into the second half, Bournemouth equalised, through Howe, but then Vincent and Ovendale, the Bournemouth goalkeeper, got into a horrid mess on the edge of the area and gave Hignett the easiest goal of his career, rolling the ball into an empty net while they stood and watched. Martin Bullock turned in Hignett's pass to settle matters.

And then, at last, a bit of controversy. Bournemouth supporters behind the Barnsley goal had a collective loss of temper and Tony Bullock, the Barnsley goalkeeper, refused to return to his post between the posts until order was restored — sensible, really, since those supporters complained later that he started it by making a rude gesture towards them. Then, after the final whistle and with one and all heading for the dressing-rooms, Alcock booked Ovendale for complaining, belatedly, about the second Barnsley goal.

What did the referee think of it all? No idea, he left without saying a word. Which was a shame, to be honest.

BARNSLEY (3-5-2): A Bullock — A Moses, M Appleby, A de Zeeuw — N Eaden, S McClare, K Richardson, C Hignett, D Sheridan — D Goodman (sub: K Rose, 77min), J Hendrie (sub: M Bullock, 63).
BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): M Ovendale — N Young, E Howe, I Cox, J Vincent (sub: R Boli, 75) — J Bailey, S Robinson, R Hughes, C Warren (sub: J O'Neill, 66) — S Fletcher, M Stein.
Referee: P Alcock.

Sheffield emerge from classic

Notts County	3
Sheffield United	4

(after extra time; 3-3 after 90min)

By Richard Hobson

MEADOW Lane went into a time warp on Saturday. Here was an old-fashioned FA Cup-tie that never wanted to end. Played on a surface that resembled a beach at kick-off and a mudbath two hours later, it featured long-range shooting of such improbable quality that a second look at the team sheet was required to check that Ronny Radford had not made a comeback.

Notts County should have completed the tale by upsetting Sheffield United, their supposed superiors. With six minutes remaining of this twice-postponed third-round replay, they were 3-1 ahead and comfortably the better side. Daunted by the possibility of such success, perhaps, they lost their nerve and the visitors scored twice to take the match into extra time.

Even then, the contest continued to twist and turn. Marcelo put United in front for the first time, only for Quinn to be sent off for a second yellow-card offence with 23 minutes remaining. Kelly produced two outstanding saves to deny Hendon and Garcia and Garcia chipped over the bar from close range.

Having lambasted his side for a woeful performance in the initial game, Steve Bruce, the United player-manager, was entitled to fear humiliation as County imposed themselves in the second half. "I counted my heart-rate and it was 138, but it could have been 238," Bruce said. "We were a little bit fortunate."

Now, the priority for United is to cut a £7.5 million wage bill. Victory in the home fourth-round tie against Cardiff City on Wednesday will give impetus to a season that has threatened to stall.

For Sam Allardyce, the Notts County manager, the outlook is more sombre. Somehow, he has to raise morale in a side that appears to be heading back towards the third division. "I feel terrible," he said immediately after the latest defeat. "I hope the players will take the positive things from the performance."

Jones had given County the lead in the nineteenth minute before Borbokis floated a free kick beyond a badly-aligned wall shortly before half-time. A screaming left-foot shot by Murray from 25 yards restored the advantage before Jones made it 3-1.

United replied instantly through Holdsworth, the captain, who shot through a crowd of players. Then, in the 89th minute, Morris centred perfectly for Marcelo. The drooping County heads emphasised just how the initiative had swung.

NOTTS COUNTY (4-5-1): D Ward — I Hendon, M Redmile, I Richardson, D Pearce (sub: F Tierney, 107min) — R Liburd, G Owers, A Hughes (sub: T Garcia, 56), S Murray, A Dyer (sub: G Strodder, 100) — G Jones.
SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — J O'Connor (sub: R Ford, 75), D Holdsworth, L Sandford, W Quinn — V Borbokis, N Henry (sub: L Morris, 61), C Woodhouse, M Twiss — Marcelo, (sub: A Jacobsen, 110), G Stuart.
Referee: A Wiley.

Wrexham hit high note

Wrexham	1
Huddersfield Town	1

By Bill Edgar

THE Wrexham crowd delivered a traditional greeting to visiting supporters who might have forgotten that their journey to the match took them across a border. "Argentina, Argentina," they taunted, reminding the English of their World Cup conquerors. Many followers of Welsh clubs remain keen to emphasise their national identity.

With these clubs marooned in the lower divisions, the FA Cup has provided some optimism with three Welsh clubs in the fourth round, one of whom, Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, deserved to progress even farther against Huddersfield Town, a first division club. Perhaps Welsh football is becoming healthier and less in need of large loans from the English Football Association.

Brian Flynn is the third longest-serving manager in either the FA Carling Premiership or Nationwide League and, consequently, a settled squad has emerged. Dave Brammer and Karl Connolly, who have spent a combined 14 years at the club, caught the eye and combined for Connolly's seventh-minute goal.

Connolly came close to adding further to his five FA Cup goals this season, but his forward partner, one Ian Rush, rarely looked like improving his record of scoring the most goals in the competition this century. He may not have scored in 15 matches for Wrexham this season, but the former Liverpool player, 37, has retained some skills, a neat dummy contributing to his team's goal. Wayne Allison headed Huddersfield's 22nd-minute equaliser from a cross by Marcus Stewart. Impressing Peter Jackson, the manager, has become doubly important for Allison and his colleagues now that "substantial funds" have been earmarked for strengthening the team by Barry Rubery, the club's new owner.

Huddersfield's fine home record makes them favourites for the replay. Should the Englishmen lose on penalties, the Welsh supporters might well draw parallels with the World Cup and repeat their favourite South American chant with extra relish.

WREXHAM (4-3-3): M Cartwright — M McGregor, D Spink, B Carey, P Hardy — D Brammer, P Ward, K Russell — M Chalk, K Connolly, I Rush.
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-3-3): N Vaesen — S Jenkins, S Collins, K Gray, T Cowan (sub: D Beresford, 23min) — G Johnson, D Phillips, R Edwards — P Barnes, W Allison, M Stewart.
Referee: P Jones.


Pulling power: Henchoz, of Blackburn, gets to grips with Phillips at Ewood Park. Photograph: Peter Wilcock

Gillespie gives Kidd hope of repeating his successes

Blackburn Rovers	1
Sunderland	0

By Stephen Wood

A GLANCE at the books that chronicle the history of the FA Cup is not enough. It requires another, sustained look to absorb the fact that Blackburn Rovers, whose awful recent record in the competition will rival that of any other club, boast seven triumphs, all told. If trips to Wembley are secured by making your own luck, the workaholic mentality of Brian Kidd, the Blackburn manager, could well pay off again this season.

In a short space of time, Kidd has instilled a sense of belief in his players at Ewood Park, a belief that, despite Sunderland, the Nationwide League first division club, dominating much of the fourth-round encounter on Saturday, was enough to protect their slender advantage.

The last time that Blackburn won the FA Cup was in 1928 and they have not even appeared in a final for 39 years. In Kidd, however, they have a man whose record in the competition is rather more impressive.

Having helped Manchester United, as assistant manager, to three finals in this decade, Kidd knows how to build a side that can overcome any opposition on any given day. With the return from injury and suspension of Chris Sutton, Tim Sherwood and Garry Flitcroft, so the theory goes around Lancashire, Blackburn will be leading contenders. Kidd was magnanimous enough to admit that Sunderland deserved something from their encounter. Afterwards, therefore, his own fields of vision were restricted to "taking each game as it comes".

Keith Gillespie, the Blackburn winger, could not resist looking farther ahead. Last season, with Newcastle United, he collected a runners-up medal and, after he had scored the winning goal on Saturday, he said: "It won't surprise people to hear that I want to go one better this season. The final against Arsenal summed up my time at Newcastle — a big letdown. I'm glad that I've been able to make a fresh start and, to be honest, I think I've got something to prove to a few people."

Gillespie: winning goal

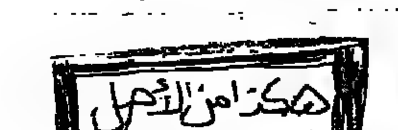
His goal, after 67 minutes, silenced the vast travelling support, who had abused Gillespie throughout for his black and white connections. About 5,000 fans came from the North East, but, in essence, they had little to shout about.

Even when Jeff Kenna, the Blackburn defender, was sent off for a foul on Kevin Phillips — Kenna's second bookable offence — Sunderland failed to threaten seriously their opponents' goal.

"If I was going to be hypercritical, I suppose we did lack a bit of cutting edge," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said, "but I thought we were unlucky as well, because the way we passed the ball was a credit to the players. I think we showed we can live with the best."

That will be the consolation for Reid. His team are favourites for automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership and any evidence that suggests they will not go straight back down again should be accepted gratefully.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (5-4-1): J Filan (sub: T Flowers, 43min) — J Kenna, D Peacock (sub: N Blake, 46), S Henchoz, M Broomes, C Davidson — K Gillespie, D Dunn, J Wilcox, D Duff (sub: G Croft, 64) — A Ward.
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler (sub: M Smith, 80), M Gray — A Rae (sub: N Summerbee, 82), G McCann, L Clarke, A Johnston — N Quinn (sub: N Quinn, 89), K Phillips.
Referee: S Lodge.



GOLF

Frost revels in home comforts

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN STELLENBOSCH

DAVID FROST proved that home advantage can sometimes be a pleasure, not a penance, when he won the South African Open here with a rousing last round. Frost grew up in these parts. This was his home course, on which he has played countless rounds, and now he owns a vineyard near Paarl, 25 miles away. In winning on a course that he knows like the back of his hand, Frost did much as Ernie Els had done one week earlier when Els won the South African PGA championship on a course that he had played hundreds of times in his youth.

It was Frost's second victory in the tournament and the occasion was embellished by the way that he played one of his best rounds to snatch the lead on the 71st hole from Sven Struver. Frost's 68, three under par, on a day when the wind had got up and turned a difficult course into a tiger, was a round of high quality. Only ten men beat par yesterday. Frost, 39, finished one stroke ahead of Scott Dunlap and Jeev Singh, the increasingly-impressive Indian.

The crux of Frost's round came on the 70th hole. In Frost's opinion, this 456-yard par four, which was played into the wind, is the most difficult hole on the course. Once he had secured a four there to remain one stroke behind Struver, he allowed himself a slight pat on the back. Perhaps that was why he played the 71st so well, teeing off with a two-iron, hitting a nine-iron to 20ft and then rolling in the putt to go five under par and level with Struver. Frost's putting, which has never been a weakness, had recently become a strength, thanks to a tip, given by a fellow professional late last year, to move his head to the right after impact. This move has the effect of making his hands, and hence the putter, go through the ball towards the hole.

He still had to face a crisis, though, when his drive on the 72nd hole rolled into the rough — only the second fairway that he missed from the tee all day — and then his second shot rolled into a greenside bunker. Frost's bunker play is as good as his putting and now he exploded to 2ft to get his par and remain five under.

In the meantime, Struver had dropped strokes on the 11th and 12th, but birdied the 15th to get back to five under par. His luck ran out when he needed it most. His drive on the last hole rolled into a divot in the middle of the fairway and, from there, he yanked a nine-iron into a pond to the left of the last green and took a six.

In this, he was typical of many. Though Steven Webster had a 70 that included two eagles, to finish joint-fourteenth, with Peter Baker, among others, high scores were commonplace. Ignacio Garrido had an 81, as did Clinton Whitelaw. Garrido and Whitelaw had been in second and joint-third places overnight, one and two strokes behind Struver. Garrido plummeted to 34th, Whitelaw to 43rd.

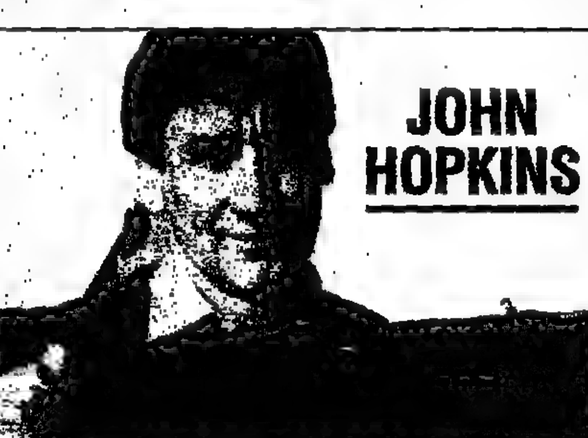
Struver's grip on the tournament began to loosen in the third round on Saturday. At one point, he was nine under par and four strokes ahead, but he finished with a 73, which included an eight at the 12th, and a 74 yesterday. Yet Struver was philosophical at his ill luck on the 72nd fairway. "That's golf," he said.


Frost: familiar course

PAUL SEVERN / ALLSPORT


Els displays his remarkable ability to bring people together as he mixes with members of the South African Caddies Association in Stellenbosch

Els unites all colours of the rainbow



In the rainbow nation, one sportsman stands out above almost all others. In this once-divided country, Ernie Els unites more people in his support than Bobby Skinstad, the newest rugby sensation, whose face peers out from magazine covers, or Doctor Khumalo, of the Kaiser Chiefs football team, or Hansie Cronje, the captain of the South Africa cricket team.

There was a touching demonstration of the broad appeal of Els, the bulking Afrikaner, here at Stellenbosch Golf Club last Wednesday evening. Els finished his round in the pro-am on the 9th green and, before he could begin clambering up the path to the stone clubhouse, he was surrounded and lionised by black caddies.

One, in particular, addressed him in an immaculate and loud English accent, grabbing him by the hand and arm, his voice carrying back to the tee of the hole that Els had just completed. Els smiled and laughed at what was being said and, as he did so, the other caddies babbled excitedly, too. Later, Els would say he had no idea of the name of that particular caddie. "I see him every time I come down here. He's a character. He makes me laugh. There are a lot like him down here." Two days later, Hettie Els, Ernie's mother, walked nine holes with her son in the second round of the South African Open, pleased and proud to note his demeanour and the esteem in which he is held — and then retreated from the 40C heat to the shelter of the clubhouse.

"The boys, Dirk and Ernie, were competitive with one another. It was good for Ernie when he was growing up that he had to struggle to keep up with Dirk, his older brother. As youngsters, Dirk painted the walls of his bedroom while Ernie stuck up posters of Jack Nicklaus. His heroes were Seve [Ballesteros], Tom Watson, Gary Player.

"After television came to South Africa, we gave them a portable black-and-white set for them to watch — but only after they had done their homework. Ernie used to hide it under his duvet and watch it. I pretended I did not know. We had a billiard table in the house and one day I walked into the room and saw him standing on the table practising his putting. We have laughed about that a lot since. Ernie is the calm one. He has a lot of self-confidence and is quite assertive. Dirk is hotheaded and very impatient.

"I was worried when Ernie won his first US Open that he might not be able to cope with it all. I thought: 'Heavens, no. It's like growing up too soon.' I felt he was too young. It was a great big thing to win that major. I worried that he might get carried away. I did not have sleepless nights, but I was uneasy.

"But the crisis is over now. He is 29 and mature and financially in the big league. He is handling people the way he should. His steadfastness comes from inside. It is because he is such a solid, self-contained boy. He is not any different now that he is famous. He still has this thin, little South African accent."

Thin and little are not adjectives that can be applied to the massive Els, who resembles a flank forward. As a teenager, as a tennis player good enough to represent his province and a fly half who could kick with both feet, he was as thin as a butcher's pencil.

"If I played top-class tennis, I'd still be as thin as that," Els said, "but I had to fill out a bit for this sport. Sport is very important to me. In fact, sport is my life. I follow sport first and the stock market second. I have a satellite dish and I can watch sport when we are in the US. We get tapes of rugby matches sent to me and sometimes I see them on a TV channel three days later."

On December 31 he married Liezl, his long-time girlfriend. After a party to end all parties — one guest claimed that Els organised scrummaging practice for remaining guests in the early hours of the next morning — the bride and groom fled to the remote wildness of the west coast of their country. "I am a city boy and I had never been there," Els said. "We were roughing it. There was no electricity. We used gas lamps and candles and slept under canvas. Water for the toilet was brought from the sea. We are so spoilt, spending our time in five-star hotels. I didn't shave for days. It was great."

Last night, Els, obviously sad to be leaving home, flew to Perth for the Heineken Classic this week. "It is tough to leave our home in George," Els said. "We've been here for more than a month now. It's home, a beautiful house, really peaceful. We've got the dogs there — a labrador and a cocker spaniel and a Great Dane, which is almost one year old now. We shall be away from South Africa until May or perhaps August."

As he begins making his towards the United States, where next month he will resume his rivalry with David Duval and Tiger Woods, against whom he felt he performed so inadequately for the latter part of last year, Els does so knowing that he carries the best wishes of a country, not just one race, with him.

The evidence for this comes from Johann Rupert, Els's mentor and one of the country's most successful businessmen. "We have a young lady working with us. She is black and good-looking and at a tournament recently she and Tiger Woods had a picture taken together. Then Ernie came around and she got a picture of herself with him. She took the photographs back to her friends and they were all more interested in seeing the picture with Ernie than with Tiger. It suggests that the new South Africa is working."

Funk seeks to build on promising start

FRED FUNK, who has been close to winning both of the year's first two events on the US Tour, stayed in contention after the penultimate round of a five-round tournament for his first victory at the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Springs, California.

Despite struggling late in the fourth round, Funk scored 69, three under par, to remain at the top of the leaderboard for the third successive day. Funk's four-round total of 268, 20 under par, gave him a one-shot lead over Steve Pate, his fellow American.

Funk was among the leaders in the first three rounds of the Mercedes Championship, the Tour's first event, before finishing in a tie for fifth. At the Sony Open last week, he fought back in the final round with a 65 to finish joint-twelfth. "This year, I've been playing really well and just letting it happen," he said. "I've a new focus this year. I'm determined to play well early in the season and I have so far."


Funk: in contention

At the Naples LPGA Memorial in Florida, Juli Inkster, of the United States, scored 65, seven under par, to make up three strokes on Karrie Webb and share the lead after the third round.

Inkster took advantage of a triple bogey at the 14th by Webb, of Australia, scoring four birdies on the front nine holes. "I'm glad it was windy so someone wouldn't run away with it," Inkster said. "I got some early momentum, plus I birdied some tough ones today."

Webb was not too despondent, however. "I was playing too safe. Then I made the turn and birdied three in a row. I felt really good after that. One bad swing at 14 cost me a three-shot lead," she said.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Usually in defence it is correct to lead a low card unless you have a suit headed by two touching honours. On the hand that follows from the Spingold, the major US national teams event, both players in the West seat spotted an exception.

Dealer East — Game all — IMPs

West	North / South	East
	North: ♠ 974 ♡ A964 ◇ Q10 ♣ KQ53	
♠ A6 ♡ J1075 ◇ KJ84 ♣ 1074	N / W E / S	♠ J10853 ♡ Q2 ◇ A63 ♣ 862
	South: ♠ KQ2 ♡ K83 ◇ 9752 ♣ AJ9	

Contract: Two No-Trumps by South. Lead: five of hearts.

South, playing a strong no-trump, opened One Diamond and rebid One No-Trump over North's One Heart response. North raised to Two No-Trumps, the final contract. Both Wests led a heart to the queen and king, then split their heart honours on the next round of the suit, and were allowed to hold the trick. Both Wests returned a club to dummy's queen, East discouraging. Both declarers continued with a spade to the king and ace.

At this stage West knows a lot about declarer's hand. Apparently he has 7 or 8 points in hearts and clubs, and the decision to attack spades suggests the queen and king. Therefore declarer cannot have the ace of diamonds. Both defenders realised it was right to play diamonds, and a small card looks obvious; but both promptly laid down the king, and played a second diamond to their partner's ace. This let East play a third diamond through declarer's 9-7, for one down.

Note that if West starts with a low diamond, it leaves the wrong hand on lead after the ace and king of diamonds, and declarer scampers home with his eight tricks.

□ Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness, of Norway, the defending champions, won the 1999 Macallan International Pairs Championship. They were assured of victory with one round still to play, having led from the start. Omar Sharif, who has played in nearly every staging of the 35-year-old tournament, was third with Christian Mari. Final scores: 1, Helgemo and Helness 585 VPs; 2, Lauria and Versace (It) 517; 3, Sharif and Mari (Egypt/Fr) 516.

□ Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Kasparov ahead

After five rounds of the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, has nosed ahead by defeating Dimitri Reinderman, of Holland. Since Anand could only draw against Ivan Sokolov, Kasparov led by half a point.

White: Dimitri Reinderman
Black: Garry Kasparov
Wijk aan Zee, 1999

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Bc4	e6
7	Bb3	Nc6
8	Be3	Qc7
9	f4	Be7
10	Qf3	0-0
11	0-0-0	Nxd4
12	Rxd4	b5
13	g4	e5
14	Nd5	Nxd5
15	Rxd5	b4
16	f5	a5
17	Ba4	Bb7
18	g5	Rfc8
19	Qg2	Bxd5
20	exd5	Qc4
21	Kb1	Qh4
22	Bc6	a4
23	Rf1	Qc4
24	Rg1	b3
25	a3	Rxc6
26	dxc6	Rc8
27	Rd1	Rxc6
28	cxb3	axb3
29	Ka1	e4
30	Qd2	f6
31	h4	Kf7
32	Qd5+	Qxd5
33	Rxd5	g6
34	fxg6+	Kxg6
35	Rb5	fxg5
36	hxg5	Rc2
37	Kb1	Rg2
38	Rxb3	Bxg5
39	Bxg5	Kxg5
40	a4	Kf4
41	Rb7	e3
42	Re7	Kf3
43	Kc1	d5
44	a5	d4
45	Rxh7	d3
46	Rh1	Rc2+
47	Kb1	e2
48	a6	Rc8

White resigns

Diagram of final position

British rankings

In the new year Fide (world chess federation) ranking list, the top British ratings are as follows: Adams 2,716, Short 2,697, Sadler 2,668, Miles 2,609, Speelman 2,601 and Nunn 2,600.

Wijk aan Zee website

The Wijk aan Zee games can be followed on chess2.lostcity.nl/hoogovens/.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CUNURA
a. Hardwood
b. Arrow poison
c. Sculpture

GONBAD
a. Flight control system
b. Hydrotherapy
c. Memorial building

GUMBO
a. A stew
b. Adhesive
c. A cartoon character

UMIAK
a. A waterproof
b. An early taxi
c. An Eskimo boat

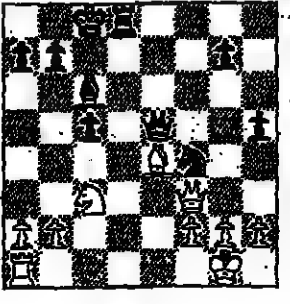
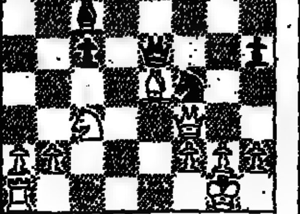
Answers on page 43

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Mossakowski — Gausel, Gausdal, 1998.

The position seems balanced, but Black's next move gave him a decisive material advantage. How did he continue?

Solution on page 43

ICE HOCKEY

Jablonski heeds warning

BY A CORRESPONDENT

KURT KLEINENDORST, the Manchester Storm coach, sent his team into the match against Newcastle Riverkings with a warning not to allow complacency to creep in as they pursue the Sekonda Superleague championship, their first significant honour.

He said: "All the hard work we have put in this season counts for nothing if we don't get it right over the next four weeks." That was his reaction to the loss of two of their three previous games, including the failure last week to end the hopes of Cardiff, their closest rivals.

No one heard the call more clearly than Jeff Jablonski. He struck four times in the defeat of the Riverkings. Pierre Allard showed Storm's mood, beating Wayne Cowley in 17sec, a Superleague record.

The Riverkings were out of the game inside another 11 minutes. Jablonski struck Storm's hundredth league goal of the season and followed Brad Rubachuk's goal with the fourth.

The Riverkings made a big effort in the second period, but, if Storm had switched off, Frankie Pietrangelo, the goaltender, had not. He made good saves from Mike Rubachuk and Mike Shewan, kept Kevin Conway on 99 league points and denied Darren McAusland.

The killer goal for the Riverkings was Jablonski's 26th-minute strike that completed his hat-trick. Newcastle were trying to capitalise on Rubachuk's minor penalty when Storm broke. Jablonski took the puck around Cowley's net and cheekily found a way to the goal. There was no way back from 5-0. He then scored his fourth and Storm were so comfortable that Timo Kauhanen, the new net minder, was given his first outing in the third period.

Ivan Matulik scored a hat-trick for Cardiff in Nottingham, where the Devils edged to within four points of Manchester Storm with a 7-3 win.

Ayr Scottish Eagles, the defending champions, were pushed all the way before achieving a 6-5 overtime win against London Knights. They went 3-0 up and were 5-2 ahead in the third period. However, Eric Flinton completed a hat-trick and Mike Harding struck to make it 5-5 right on the final buzzer. Carry Biette poached the winner after 1min 55sec of overtime.

BASKETBALL

Donewald storms into fresh trouble

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

BOB DONEWALD, the irascible coach of Derby Storm, who is facing his latest disciplinary hearing tomorrow — on his 29th birthday — could be in further trouble with officialdom after yet another argument with a referee on Saturday.

Derby's 107-94 victory over Birmingham Bullets was tarnished by a technical offence incurred by Donewald, when he took Keith Bruce, the referee, to task over the positioning of Mike Finger, the visiting coach. Finger, according to Donewald, was not being punished for constantly stepping out of bounds on to the court. Yet when Donewald tried to make a point by following Finger's example, he was penalised by Bruce.

It was for Donewald's alleged crude insults against Will Jones, the Welsh official, after his team's recent single-point loss to the Leopards that Donewald faces an English Basketball Association disciplinary committee this week.

The latest episode did not prevent Derby from maintaining their slim hopes of catching the Budweiser League leaders. With the help of 24 points from Yorick Williams and 20 from Joel Burns, the Storm shook off the Bullets in a 14-0 second-quarter burst, opening up a 44-25 half-time lead.

The Bullets rallied with Reggie Kirk's entire 17-point haul coming in the third quarter. Nigel Lloyd, their top scorer with 29 points — two more than Tony Sims — was another to incur the wrath of Bruce. For abusing the official, the Bajan also received a technical offence.

Like the Bullets, who are waiting for a work permit for Justin Phoenix, their new signing, Worthing Bears were also unable to select their American newcomer, Adam McCanna. The league's bottom club could have done with him against Sheffield Sharks, who proceeded to a comfortable 133-107 win on the South Coast only 24 hours after they had beaten Edinburgh Rocks 93-86. The two victories helped the Sharks to regain their four-point lead over Manchester Giants at the top.

NETBALL

England turn to Muller

MARY BEARDWOOD, the England coach, has kept faith with ten of the players who steered the side to a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games, naming Ann Marie Muller as the only newcomer to the England squad to play Wales in Cardiff on Saturday (Cathy Harris writes).

Muller, 24, and Helen Lonsdale, who returns to the team after recovering from a serious knee injury sustained on the 1997 South African tour, replace Fiona Murtagh, the captain, and Lucia Sdao, who retired after Kuala Lumpur.

Joanne Zinzan, who turns 27 on Wednesday and has played a key role in Middlesex's success at the top of the championship this season, has been named as the new captain, with Olivia Murphy as vice-captain against Wales.

Murphy, Lonsdale, Amanda Newton and Naomi Siddall leave for New Zealand in late February to play for local clubs in a national cup competition during April and May. The move is a long-term investment by the All-England Netball Association to give those expected to play in the world championship in 2003 the chance to improve their skills and learn from the world's best players.

Beardwood said that she was delighted to welcome Lonsdale back. "She has trained very hard and is playing her part in some promising combinations in centre court," she said, adding that Muller's move this season to Essex Met, the county champions, had helped lift her game through tougher competition.

The match against Wales will give Beardwood the opportunity to watch less experienced players in action and she said that she would probably take another three weeks before finalising the team to meet South Africa on February 22nd.

ENGLAND SQUAD: L Stanley (North Durham), T Neville (Greater Manchester), L Carpenter (Surrey), L Law (Essex Met), A M Muller (Essex Met), A Newton (Essex Met), H Lonsdale (Middlesex), H Mannufor (Middlesex), J Zinzan (Middlesex), O Murphy (Derbyshire), K Aspinall (Derbyshire), N Siddall (Derbyshire).

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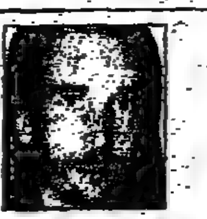
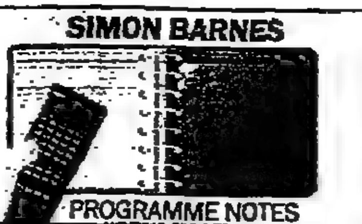
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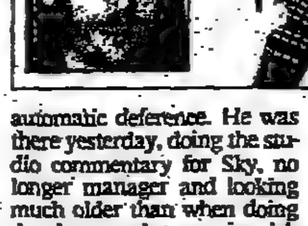
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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

Gray steers almost perfect path amid twists and turns



A short while ago, I watched an encounter between two male lions. It was won by the weaker of the two: old, skinny, a bag of bones, gone in the tooth. The loser was in his prime: as sleek and as glossy a black-maned lion as you could wish to see.

He was not outfought, it was simply that the old lion *had the habit of dominance*: he sincerely believed that he was the top man. But also, and perhaps crucially, the young lion had the habit of submission. In his heart, he deferred to the older male. In his heart, he was second-best.

It will not be that way for ever — perhaps even now, the pride dynamics have altered — but in that period when I had the pride under prolonged, daily observation, the long-established dominance hierarchy remained in place. *The stronger deferred to the weaker.*

And that was exactly the way it was at Old Trafford yesterday, when Sky Sports brought us the noon-day clash — *High Noon* the movie was on BBC the previous day — between Manchester United and Liverpool. The cast list was enough to ensure a compelling occasion and, as it happened, the game was an absolute belter, sport at its best. Which also happens to be television at its best.

Those with memories that extend deep before the dawn of time — before Eric Cantona, before Sky Television, before the Cup turned into the AXA-sponsored FA Cup — will recall that Liverpool won *everything. It was Manchester United* who had the habit of deference. *They submitted* to Liverpool. After a period of eye contact, it was always United who blinked.

Lord knows, United had plenty of excellent players, but they also had a culture of deference and Liverpool made themselves perpetual overdogs the length and breadth of Europe. No team across the Continent was able to look into Liverpool's eyes without blinking. Roy Evans was there during the great days and was made manager long after Liverpool had lost the ability to extort automatic deference. He was there yesterday, doing the studio commentary for Sky, no longer manager and looking much older than when doing the desperately worrying job of seeking to rebuild the culture of dominance.

These days, of course, it is United who extort deference. Evans talked about Liverpool attacking, of Liverpool being no longer afraid — and there was Michael Owen's third-minute goal to prove him right. Or so it seemed.

Then a wonderful Liverpool defensive effort, with United having a shot cleared off the line, hitting a post, seeing flukey deflections scrape the safe side of a post. And Andy Gray chortling that it was clearly destined to be Liverpool's day.

The best commentators keep up with the play, while the adequate ones follow play. The very rare ones anticipate it. The worst anticipate wrong. There was a time when I used *to collect Truemanisms:* any statement by any commentator that is immediately contradicted by actual events. "Bob Willis knows he can never be a fast bowler." Four wickets in the half-hour to big Bob.

The opposite of a Truemanism is probably a Benaudism and the nearest football has — for football is a much more swiftly changing and volatile game than cricket — to a purveyor of Benaudism is Gray. He correctly anticipated defensive problems for Liverpool with the loss of Paul Ince, but *he was never quite up to speed* with the United revival. But then who could have been? The late equaliser, then the stoppage-time winner from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who *has been given the unwieldy* nickname of The Baby-Faced Assassin.

This fails to do complete justice, though, to his genuinely sinister qualities. Solskjaer's face looks at the same time babyish and incongruously old: a vicious, stiletto-wielding elf. He would be perfect casting for the midget murderer in *Don't Look Now*.

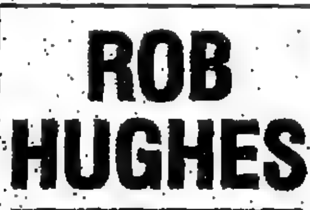
The discursive nature of the Sky commentary style means that Gray and Martin Tyler are sometimes sidetracked into talking about other things than what is happening right now, right here. The wild and wacky conclusion made both look a trifle leaden-footed.

Still, Gray came up with a Benaudism when he emphasised the need for concentration over the last couple of minutes as David Beckham lined up the fateful free kick. Thirty seconds later, a goal and a lapse of concentration entitled Gray to his "I told you so" as Dwight Yorke pushed the ball into the goal.

This was a great two hours of sport and Sky have a right to punch the air with delight. If it had been any better, it *might even have made* the appalling and perpetual AXA *adverts seem intelligent, or* even bearable.

'The driver of this train of opulence and privilege has been Juan Antonio Samaranch'

Presiding over Olympic shame





The Great Olympic Gravy Train has hit the buffers and, not surprisingly, just three of the nine people specifically accused by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of dishonouring the Olympic Movement *have volunteered to* get off.

As a result, for the next six weeks, six more men of the committee are suspended, though they have been named and shamed; they face expulsion on March 17 if a two-thirds majority of their colleagues dare to do it. During that time, the Olympic rings and the ethos that they represent will remain in limbo.

The driver of this train of opulence and privilege has been Juan Antonio Samaranch. His said yesterday, in a *shaky* voice, that he was sorry that some of his colleagues had let down the Olympic ideal, but, although he will seek a vote of re-confidence, he takes no responsibility for presiding over the decline and fall of the body of men and a few women that he has led into this unholy mess.

Many presidents would have resigned, but Samaranch, 78, believes *that the Olympic movement* needs him now more than ever. It needs *someone — but not a man* who, literally, was granted a three-car train *to transport himself and* his retinue to Nagano one month before that wintery city was granted the 1998 Games.

The vice-president, Dick Pound, the Montreal lawyer who was charged with heading the IOC internal inquiry, yesterday failed to assert the full integrity that the Olympics now rapidly need.

He supported the president in office and stated that the $700,000 (about £440,000) that everyone has been openly stating was spent by Salt Lake City to bribe members for their votes was not corrupt, not bribery and not criminal. It merely broke the Olympic oath, he said, and brought the reputation of the IOC into disrepute.

Yet Pound had said earlier that Samaranch received so many "protocol" gifts that he would need a house the size of ten acres to take them all home. Is this the image, the reputation, the leadership that the IOC, *with apparently susceptible* members aboard, should be following?

The public are heartily sick of the hypocrisy, the bandying of words. Either the named individuals are the worst example of "brutally obvious corruption", as one member of Pound's commission described it, or, they are being framed.

Sergio Samtander, the Chilean politician who is one of the suspended six, summed things up when he said: "I am certain I did not act incorrectly at any moment."

One can see the leadership of the IOC, if it has got this wrong, in the dock for defamation of character, but, in the next six weeks, the public will be floundering, bound to listen to more hubris, such as the Salt Lake City official who described his city's largesse as a "humanitarian outreach programme". *May the Gods of Olympus spare us such tripe.*

There was a voice of reason from England. Menzies Campbell, a former Olympic sprinter and an MP expected to throw his hat into the Liberal Democratic leadership ring, has called for the entire IOC to be scrapped. He warns that the world is fearful "that the Games are for drug takers in tracksuits and bribe takers in blazers".

Does the Honourable Ming not know that the IOC is no longer calling them bribes? Better that he, a man with real feeling and experience of taking part, should condemn the malpractice than Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport. Only on Friday, Banks described Samaranch as being "a man who is not accused of anything".

To millions who care about the Olympic ideal, who believe, *despite everything, that it is an irreplaceable concept, Samaranch is guilty, at the very least, of complacently building up a committee that has become blatantly contaminated.*

The Olympic flame is withering and has been ever since 1984, when the $200 million profits of the Los Angeles Games began a race of competitive greed by countries, or rather cities, trying to outbid each other, legally or otherwise, to stage the Olympics.

Steve Ovett, an Olympian who should know better, suggests that competitors will not care about the IOC ethics as they did for gold, but this is a wayward observation. Even he misconstrues the idea of the Olympics: it was revived 103 years ago by Pierre de Coubertin as a competition for "the taking part".

For all bar those who are favourites for medals, it remains the dream of running, *swimming*, cycling or whatever in the greatest *Games of mankind. To them*, the Olympic ideal is not idle and it is worth *fighting* for.

Alas, too many of them are sucked into the common belief that to compete at all is nigh on impossible without the substances, the drugs, that the Olympic godfathers are promising to tackle once and for all.

Who can go to Lausanne, the same temple where the charade took place yesterday, in the first week of February believing in the authority of Samaranch and others to conduct the world's most powerful symposium against drug abuse?

That conference, inviting the whole body of international sports to come under the wings of Olympicism, is now virtually destroyed. Those who thought that it would be the most concerted and vital *gathering that sport could aspire* to before the end of this millennium *have been deceived.*

Sadly, there are people who will sell their souls and their involvement in the games that others play. We have seen in the court of Samaranch, and not a few other sports, how games have been sold to the mercenaries.

In world football, run for 24 years by the Brazilian João Havelange, an Olympian, too, a similar pattern has developed. Nothing as corrupting as the Olympic rings has been proven, but Havelange, even ahead of Samaranch, put sport on to an entirely different plane through the profitable liaison, the golden triangle of sport, with television and sponsorship.

They can command $1 billion for the television rights, approaching $1 billion in sponsorships, for each version of the Olympics, each World Cup. And therein lies the *root of corruption.*

Havelange, though still a member *of the IOC and still the honorary* president of Fifa, the world *football authority, has retired without* the ignominy that surrounds Samaranch, but both of them coveted, for their selfless service to sport, the Nobel Peace Prize.

That they did not get it becomes a source of comfort to those who must pick up the baton and redirect sport to wholesome pursuit. And it emphasises that not everything on this earth can be bought.



The appeal of the Olympic movement, that has been compromised by a bribery scandal, is evident in the huge crowd at the opening of the centennial Games in Atlanta

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SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Greyhounds' cruel fate

From Ms Charlotte Cornwell and others

Sir, As some of your readers may not have seen the recent BBC programme about the greyhound racing industry, we feel that concerns surrounding the welfare of greyhounds deserve a wider audience.

In 1992, 0.4 per cent of off-course betting tax *on* greyhound racing was made available to the British *Greyhound* Racing Fund, one of the three private companies that control the greater part of the greyhound racing business. Distribution of that money is primarily in the gift of track owners and bookmakers and the cash goes largely to infrastructure and capital *projects*.

Of the £4.5 million available to them last year, a *mere* £160,000 was devoted to the aftercare of greyhounds leaving the track.

Every year, 10,000 greyhounds are newly registered to race and displace thousands of older greyhounds, who may have the capacity to live another ten years. Some are fortunate to be kept by their owners, but other healthy dogs are destroyed and many more cruelly abandoned, ending up in the care of *animal* welfare agencies or worse.

It is an indictment of those who control greyhound racing that the gentle animals who underpin their business are not better served. Not only is the pittance devoted to their aftercare a scandal, but payments for races to the bulk of owners are so paltry that they could not afford to subscribe to a compulsory "pension" scheme to cover dogs "retiring" (if one existed).

The true extent of the greyhound welfare problem is unknown. What we do know is that some animals suffer extreme hardship. The lack of information doubtless suits the *industry, the bookmakers* and successive Governments to date, which have pocketed more than £1 billion each year from the betting public, "no questions asked".

We call on the Government to carry out an inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds surplus *to racing*, which will scope the problem, produce costed proposals *for the creation of independent* long-term welfare arrangements and set out an implementation plan.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE CORNWELL,
ALEXANDRA BASTEDO,
SIMON CALLOW,
JEAN BOHT,
JILLY COOPER,
ANNETTE CROSBIE,
SHIRLEY WATTS,
105 Sotheby Rd, N5 2UT.

Wilson of the Wizard stirs memories

From Mr Eric Hamer

Sir, John Bryant's article on Wilson of the Wizard (January 14) brought back memories of the late Ron Pickering. I remember some years ago, Ron, commentating on an athletics meeting, referring to that great Scottish sprinter, Allan Wells, who had come to the track in black vest and the then little-worn black Lycra shorts, as looking like Wilson of the Wizard — a comment lost on a young generation, but not on us *Wizard* readers.

Apart from Wilson *of the Wizard's* prowess on the track, let us not forget that he was the first man to climb Everest and return, without oxygen — and in his woollen leotard, of course.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC HAMER,
13, Lant Avenue, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LA.

From Mr Eric Roberts

Sir, The only athlete who measured up to the *great Wilson is Jos Naylor, the Wasdale Farmer*, who ran 72 Lakeland peaks in under 24 hours in 1975. *I helped Jos on this run* and was struck by his likeness to Wilson.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC ROBERTS,
Lynmara, Townhead Road, Carlisle CA5 7JF.

One-day choices

From Mr Henry Pepper

Sir, While England's cricketers struggle to match their rivals for technique and natural ability, why do the selectors repeatedly *compound these problems* with poor choices?

The selections of the bit-players Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells have proved to be a *mockery* in the Triangular series, as they have been found *to be out of their depth.*

Ian Austin performed well in the one-day international in the summer. He even produced a man-of-the-match display. However, he must wait for the ridiculously large squad of 30 to be cut *down* to 15 for the World Cup. In this *time, he will not have a chance* to impress the selectors. The same goes for Mark Ramprakash, England's second-most consistent batsman in the Ashes, *who has also been overlooked* from the triangular series. *I doubt inclusion in the* preliminary squad of 30 will have put their minds at rest.

Perhaps the selectors could learn from their Australian counterparts, who, as Ian Botham commented, "got it *right again and again*".

Yours sincerely
HENRY PEPPER,
Broad Close,
Rossett Green Lane,
Harrogate HG2 9LH.

Barmy Army

From Mr Douglas Smith

Sir, The attempt by Mr Gordon Birtwistle (January 18) to sanctify the Barmy Army following the England cricketers in their sad professional trek around the world falls flat on *the ears of those who, like myself, have suffered the aural experience.*

He argues that they are uplifting spirits given to charitable works when not submitting us to repetitive, mindless chants. If they offered some hours of silence in return for *collecting box cash, these good* causes might benefit vastly.

Or perhaps they should join forces with the Salvation Army, as the England team need their help as much as the socially downtrodden.

Sincerely,
DOUGLAS SMITH
Astral House,
Regency Place, SW1P 2EA.

Rugby heads should roll

From Mr John Streule

Sir, We may not have the experience or expertise of Fran Cotton, but there are many who also "know and love" the game of rugby football. We must all be in despair over the ineptitude of the present English management and their apparent intentions to ruin this great game. As I write, the participation of England in the Five Nations Championship remains in doubt, but even these blinkered and largely anonymous men will surely back down before this calamitous state is confirmed.

To those of us who simply *wish to enjoy the game and to* read match reports and not politics, this present débâcle can come as no surprise. After all, one did not have to be a Woodward to recognise that the international programme *in the summer was ludicrous.* One did not require the business *acumen of a Branson to* anticipate financial crisis in clubs paying six-figure salaries when average gates were in the low four figures. Nor did we require the expertise of a Saatchi to realise that, at a *time* when a changing game needed to be promoted, the *removal of all live coverage from terrestrial television was tantamount* to sabotage.

All these are so obvious as to suggest that our present *administrators are more interested* in short-term gain than in *the welfare of the game.* Perhaps this is uncharitable; *perhaps they are simply incompetent.* Who are they? Do they *show remorse or apologise* for the shambles they are creating? Instead of blaming others, it is time for someone to stand up and be counted, to take responsibility and bring some sanity to the game before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STREULE,
Low Swinklebank,
Longsleddale, Kendal,
Cumbria LA8 9BD.

Sex sacrificed

From Mr Peter Walters

Sir, Facing the prospect of a relegation battle, I note that to ensure survival, Ruud Gullit's Newcastle team is to sacrifice "sexy football".

Clearly, Ruud has appreciated that in adversity British *football's traditional tactical* last stand has always appeared to have been "kicked and chaste".

Yours faithfully,
PETER WALTERS,
Red Trees,
Holmefield Avenue,
Thornton Cleveleys,
Lancashire FY5 2QP.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow
With Oxford United struggling for survival off the pitch, did they manage to lift the gloom hanging over the club with victory at home to Chelsea in the FA Cup?
Wednesday
Lindsay Davenport, above, the world No 1, powered her way to the quarter-finals of *the Australian Open* without dropping a set. Did her run *continue when she* came up against the equally hard-hitting Venus Williams?
Thursday
Who drew first blood when Wimbledon and Tottenham *Hotspur met in the first leg* of the Worthington Cup semi-final?
Saturday
Guide to the weekend's Premiership matches, plus columnists Danny Baker, Frank Leboeuf and Robert Elms

Allied Dunbar Premiership: Leicester make heavy weather of maintaining title push

Richards in no mood to rest on his laurels

Leicester..........23
Gloucester..........16

BY ALAN PEAREY

THE mood of Dean Richards, their manager, is usually a good barometer of Leicester's performance. On Saturday, his surly manner reflected the form of a team who will need to show far more ruthlessness in coming weeks to maintain their leadership of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Richmond, tomorrow, Harlequins and London Irish lie in wait for Leicester before their potential title decider with Northampton on March 13. Three of the four games are away. No one was arguing when Richards said: "It's not an easy run-in."

It might have been worse. After suffering for 78 minutes from painfully slow ball, Gloucester broke the gain-line for once and Terry Fanolua's thundering run put Richard Tombs over. It was the first time that the visitors had penetrated the Leicester 22 and, after Mark Mapletoft converted, there followed some anxious moments for most of the 11,394 crowd as Gloucester sought the try that would give their fly half the chance to kick his side to what would have been an improbable draw.

Such a result would have been a travesty, as Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, was quick to admit. "At 23-9 and with Leicester on our line, I thought it could be 30 or 40 points against us," he said. "They had all the ball and it was only their errors that kept us in the game. Leicester were not that impressive and looked like a side that expected to win."

In a mediocre game, poor decision-making and frequent turnovers combined to deny Leicester the victory margin that their territorial supremacy warranted. They struggled in the tight and were twice forced back from their own lineout when in scoring range. Though Martin Corry again excelled at No 8, the back row missed the quicksilver Neil Back, who was absent with flu.

It was left to Dave Lougheed, the powerful Leicester wing, to deliver the goods. The Canadian, who had been keen to leave Welford Road when Nnambi Ezulike was holding down the No 11 shirt in the autumn, capitalised on Austin Healey's quick tap and then barged through rare loose tackling to prevent Gloucester gaining a half-time lead. Later, he crossed the line again, but a pile-up of bodies stopped Ashley Rowden, the referee, from seeing whether Lougheed had secured a hat-trick.

With Joel Stransky not yet restored to full fitness, Tim Stimpson undertook goal-kicking duties and his fallibility — he missed four out of seven attempts — enabled Gloucester to stay in touch.

Gloucester have now lost seven successive away league matches. If a new game plan, intended to stop the rot, was in operation here, it was difficult to detect in a match much fragmented by the referee's whistle.

One of the more surprising statistics of this season is that of Gloucester's 37 league tries, only four have been scored by forwards. Yet any thoughts of spinning the ball wide may have gone out the window when, in a remarkable transformation from the sides' meeting at Kingsholm last month, Gloucester discovered they had an edge in the front row.

Though likely to provide as many as ten players to the forthcoming England A squad, the feeling remains that Gloucester are a side for the future. As for Leicester, their hour has come. Will they win the title? "If I was a betting man, I'd put my money on Northampton," Richards said, a smile breaking out.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Lougheed 2 (23, 40), Stransky (61). Conversion: Stimpson. Penalty goals: Stimpson 2 (3, 51). Gloucester: Try: Tombs (78). Conversion: Mapletoft. Penalty goals: Mapletoft 3 (7, 28, 31).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Leicester first): 0-3, 3-3, 8-3, 8-6, 8-9, 13-9 (half-time), 18-9, 23-9, 23-16.
LEICESTER: T Stimpson; L Lloyd, S Potter (rep: C Joiner, 40min), P Howard (rep: J Stuart, 33-40), D Lougheed; J Stransky, A Healey; D Jelley (rep: G Rowntree, 61), R Cockerill (rep: D West, 67), D Garforth, M Johnson, F van Heerden, W Johnson, L Moody, M Corry.
GLOUCESTER: A Lumsden; B Johnson, T Fanolua, R Tombs, P Saint-Andre; M Mapletoft, S Benton, T Woodman, N McCarthy, A Deacon, D Sims, M Cornwell, E Pearce (rep: A Hazell, 65), N Carter, S Ojomoh.
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire)


Howard, of Leicester, attempts to charge down a kick by Fanolua during his side's 23-16 success over Gloucester at Welford Road on Saturday

O'Shea helps Irish to sustain revival

Harlequins..........17
London Irish..........22

BY MARK SOUSTER

WHEN the London Irish team broke up last summer, Conor O'Shea said *au revoir* to several good friends, among them David Humphreys, the linchpin of Ulster's unlikely assault on the European Cup. O'Shea stayed behind at Sunbury, one of the few Irishmen to survive Dick Best's cull or Ireland's call. O'Shea's importance to the Exiles, who he joined in 1995 from Lansdowne, has been as significant as that of Humphreys to Ulster.

After eight wins in nine matches, in which O'Shea has played a pivotal role, London Irish stare giddily down from the virtual summit of the Allied Dunbar Premiership. O'Shea may have wondered about Best's motives, but results have proved him right.

O'Shea, who scored two of his side's tries on Saturday, embodies the old and the new at Sunbury. The respect between captain and coach is mutual. Best says of O'Shea: "He is an outstanding man and player and a very good leader of men. He leads by example. He does inspirational things on the field. That is why he is captain. We are very proud of him."

O'Shea is full of admiration for Best, too. He said: "You don't want a coach to be your best friend. It is no use being mollycoddled. We have a laugh and a joke, but we know there is a line you don't cross. He has instilled an unbelievably professional attitude."

Seven early-season defeats probably puts the title out of reach, but they are undeniably the form team, creating a formidable reputation along the way. Their Tetley's Bitter Cup fifth-round match against Northampton this Saturday promises to be the tie of the round.

Best and O'Shea say nothing can be taken for granted, but John Gallagher, the Harlequins director of rugby, believes that the Exiles will stay the course. "They were pretty awesome today. I can't see them losing again," he said.

Harlequins, who have enjoyed equally improved fortunes recently, were handicapped by the loss of Zinzan

Results..........39

Brooke and Thierry Lacroix to what looked serious injuries. Brooke limped off after ten minutes with a damaged knee, while Lacroix was carried off after being accidentally knocked unconscious by a flailing Irish knee. The Frenchman was walking by the end of the match, but will be sidelined three weeks.

Gallagher refused to make excuses, though, knowing that London Irish had lost Kevin Putt, their scrum half, to a calf strain in the pre-match warm-up. Peter Richards replaced him.

For all the expectation and hype, the first half-hour produced stultifyingly dull, mechanical rugby, in which errors abounded and both sides cancelled each other out. Neither lineout was working well, Keith Wood kept missing his jumpers. Brian Campsall missed at least six forward passes and a full house at the Stoop Memorial Ground raised barely a titter.

The Irish contingent sprang to life when Bachop and O'Shea combined to provide some inspiration a minute before half-time. A beautifully-weighted pass by Bachop set Burrows in space. Bishop peeled off one way, O'Shea the other and the centre found his captain, who sped to the line.

In the second half, O'Leary had an untroubled 50-metre home run after intercepting a pass by Burrows, but, with London Irish asserting themselves in the scrum, the Irish did not flinch. Harlequins ploughed their way through at least ten successive phases but got nowhere before turning over possession. Bachop counter-attacked and found O'Shea, whose clever angle took him to the line.

When Bishop rounded off a searing run by Woods, London Irish knew that they had done enough. It would be a delicious irony if the Exiles, who have to leave the inadequate facilities at Sunbury next season, pitch up at the Stoop in place of London Scottish. Now Best would really enjoy that — and stranger things have happened.

SCORERS: Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary (53), Mensah (80). Conversions: Schuster 2. Penalty goal: Schuster (31). London Irish: Tries: O'Shea 2 (39, 57), Bishop. Conversions: Woods 2. Penalty goal: Woods (80).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Harlequins first): 3-0, 3-7 (half-time), 10-7, 10-14, 10-17, 10-22, 17-22.
HARLEQUINS: J Williams (rep: J Keyter, 55-60min); D O'Leary, P Mensah, J Schuster, D Luger; T Lacroix (rep: D Officer, 50), H Harries (rep: N Walshe, 30); J Leonard, K Wood, G Halpin (rep: D Barnes, 62), G Morgan (rep: W Davison, 75), G Llewellyn, Z Brooke (rep: R Jenkins, 11), A Leach, C Sheasby.
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; J Bishop, N Burrows, B Venter, N Woods; S Bachop, P Richards; N Halley, R Kirke, K Fullman (rep: R Hardwick, 73), N Harvey, M O'Kelly, J Boer, R Strudwick, R Gallacher.
Referee: B Campsall (Yorkshire).

McGeechan expresses irritation over West approach

Northampton..........19
West Hartlepool..........14

BY MARK BALDWIN

SHOULD Northampton worry about failing to show the superior class expected of Allied Dunbar Premiership leaders at Franklin's Gardens on Saturday? Or should West Hartlepool, the bottom club, be congratulated for the way they fight on, despite a financial straitjacket and massive uncertainty concerning future league structures?

Ian McGeechan, the Northampton director of rugby, was irritated by West's spoiling tactics and asked a rhetorical question about the legality of their approach after Chris White, the referee, had chosen to send just Steven Sparks, the prop, to the sin-bin for deliberate infringements.

"It's very difficult when you have only one side trying to play rugby," McGeechan said. "Our players got very frustrated, which is why Garry Pagel got a white card. I was disappointed with him, but overall we kept our discipline and stayed patient."

However, Mike Brewer, the West player-coach, who missed the game with an injured shoulder, felt that White "had not done any favours" to his side. Furthermore, Brewer, a former All Black, reckons that Northampton do not possess the penetration in the backs required of champions, adding: "Their back three are not too clever, either, when the ball is put behind them."

He also bemoaned his team's failure to clear their lines effectively, when leading 14-9 in the 72nd minute, allowing Matt Dawson the chance

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	16	13	0	3	470	264	26
Northampton	17	13	0	4	452	359	26
London Irish	18	11	0	7	458	407	22
Saracens	16	10	1	5	476	335	21
Bath	17	10	0	7	427	345	20
Newcastle	17	10	0	7	453	388	20
Wasps	16	9	1	6	445	314	19
Harlequins	16	9	0	7	407	395	18
Richmond	15	8	1	6	404	387	17
Gloucester	18	8	1	9	375	388	17
Sale	17	5	0	12	396	496	10
London Scot	17	5	0	12	320	429	10
Bedford	17	2	0	15	347	556	4
W Hartlepool	17	2	0	15	261	618	4

to snipe down the blind side of a maul 25 yards out and put Pat Lam in for his tenth try of the season.

Even then, West had a chance to snatch at least a precious point as they won a lineout in the left corner and saw Steven Vile held up as he tried to drive himself over off the shoulder of a rolling maul. Brewer said: "I'm proud of the way we played and we have got a team now who can be very competitive at this level.

"Will we survive? A lot may depend on what happens at the English First-Division Rugby meeting on Tuesday. We must have a minimum of 4,000 spectators for home games, because that generates the £40,000 match income we need, but, at the moment, we are averaging only 1,500."

The tension showed as Northampton, who like to run most penalties, were urged by the bulk of the 6,023 to kick for goal whenever West infringed within range. Paul Grayson duly gave them a 9-0 interval lead, but the exit of Tim Rodber in the twentieth minute, with a sprung rib cartilage that may make him doubtful for England's opening Five Nations Championship fixture on February 20, blunted Northampton's edge up front and Pagel's indiscretion further encouraged West.

Pita Tanginoa spun out of a tackle for their first try and, after dominating the remainder of the third quarter, Vile completed more good forward approach work.

Yet Northampton just about held their nerve. One more question, then, for McGeechan, who had purred in his programme notes that: "The vision I had when I first came to Northampton is now taking shape." Can Northampton take the title? "Haven't a clue," he said. Like the game, unsatisfactory, but, on a day without answers, appropriate.

SCORERS: Northampton: Try: Lam (72min). Conversion: Grayson. Penalty goals: Grayson 4 (12, 34, 40, 77). West Hartlepool: Tries: Tanginoa (48), Vile (54). Conversions: Vile 2.
SCORING SEQUENCE (Northampton first): 3-0, 6-0, 9-0 (half-time), 9-7, 9-14, 16-14, 19-14.
NORTHAMPTON: N Beal; C Moir, A Blyth, M Allen (rep: D Dantiacq, 70min), B Cohen; P Grayson, M Dawson; G Pagel (sin bin, 46-56), S Walter, M Stewart (rep: M Hynes, 57), J Phillips, T Rodber (rep: S Foale, 20; rep: Hynes, 54-56), G Seely, A Pountney, P Lam.
WEST HARTLEPOOL: E Farrell; M Mullins, J Connolly, P Tanginoa, S John; S Vile; T Nu'uali'itia; S Sparks (sin bin, 41-59), S McDonald, K Fourie, P Farrer, T Collier, M Salter (rep: J J Van der Esch, 41-51), D Monkley, J Ponton.
Referee: C White (Gloucestershire)

Warren entertains hope for Bedford

Bedford..........17
Bath..........30

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

DESPITE yet another debilitating defeat on the field, there was a feeling of optimism in the Bedford camp on Saturday. Frank Warren, their chairman and benefactor, was finally back, his drawn-out legal battle with Don King now over.

Warren, able to attend a Bedford game for the first time this season, visited the players in the changing-room and then entertained them in his hospitality box. After the game, the television in Warren's box was showing *Grandstand* and Warren watched as Steve Rider observed how Bedford had still not won a match since October.

"Oh, shut up!" he said at the screen, before handing a drink to another one of his players as he entered the room. Warren was in no mood to contemplate the turbulence of the immediate past, but was just happy to be back.

"There's a great spirit at this club," he said. "The players have been fantastic throughout all the troubles and Rudi [Straeuli, the Bedford director of rugby] has been a rock. I can't thank him enough." Straeuli was equally upbeat, describing the day as positive both on and off the field. He welcomed Warren's return and promised the recruitment of new players over the next two weeks.

On the field, however, the impact of Warren's return has yet to change anything. Bedford lost the game, despite, as so often, showing enough passion and ability to have won.

The pattern in the first half was simple. Time and again, Bedford worked themselves into Bath territory and persistently threatened the Bath defence, especially in the forwards, where Forster was particularly prominent — yet invariably the ball ended up in the hands of Catt, Perry or Guscott, whose subsequent kicks sent the ball spiralling back down the field and obliged Bedford to start all over again.


Warren: return

Bedford's only reward in the first half was a try from Murdoch, while Bath, whose defence was solid throughout, were far more precise, with a well-taken try from Balshaw after a break by Catt supplemented by a penalty try on the stroke of half-time, when Underwood's knock-on denied the visitors a two-man overlap. Suddenly, Bedford were 17-5 down at half-time and they never recovered.

Bath have high hopes for the future themselves, as they present the council with plans for a £30 million redevelopment of the Recreation Ground. This will include a futuristic East Stand that has a grass roof and sinks into the ground, only to rise to the occasion on match day.

Bedford, meanwhile, will be content just to fix their floodlights, half of which failed in the second half.

"That was unfortunate," Straeuli said with a grin. "It's not because we haven't paid our electricity bills!"

Warren's return should ensure those kind of problems are a thing of the past. He does not have to see Don King again and, with his friends around him in his hospitality box, he can look forward to the future. Hopefully, that means Bedford can do the same.

SCORERS: Bedford: Tries: Murdoch (30min), Zaltzman (55), Elliott (80). Conversion: Howard. Bath: Tries: Balshaw (6), penalty try (40), Adebayo (80). Conversions: Catt 3. Penalty goals: Catt 3 (27, 58, 74).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Bedford first): 0-7, 0-10, 5-10, 5-17 (half-time), 5-20, 10-20, 10-23, 10-30, 17-30.
BEDFORD: B Whetstone (rep: S Howard, 50min); R Underwood, A Murdoch, D Harris, D O'Mahony; A Yapp, R Elliott; C Boyd, J Richards, V Hartland (rep: A Ozdemir, 70), D Zaltzman, S Murray, J Cockle, J Forster, J Paramore.
BATH: M Perry; I Balshaw, K Maggs, J Guscott, A Adebayo; M Catt, S Hatley (rep: A Gomarsall, 74); D Hilton, M Regan, V Ubogu, M Haag, S Borthwick, R Earnshaw, R Webster (rep: E Peters, 58), D Lyle.
Referee: N Yates (Cheshire)

Sale's attraction brings no profit

Sale..........20
Newcastle Falcons..........28

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

SALE are learning the hard way that a mission to entertain is rarely an effective means to an end. Invariably exciting, always good value for money, a schizophrenic nature saw the Cheshire side at their occasional best but predominant worst as they slumped to a fifth successive league defeat.

All except the most blinkered home supporters at Heywood Road on Saturday would quibble with John Mitchell's assessment that it was a "rubbish match" and "Newcastle were as poor as us", but the Sale director of rugby is angry with his side's constant failure to control a game, which is at the root of their problems.

Mitchell goes jogging after matches, but even pounding the Sale streets had not worked out his frustration. He ordered the players in for Sunday training. "Is that normal?" someone asked. "Not for me," according to the New Zealander, whose team is capable of some joyous rugby, which they must rediscover against Bedford and London Scottish, two of the three sides below them in the Allied Dunbar Premiership first division.

Dawie Theron, the South Africa prop forward, is due to arrive this week. That leaves two more areas that Mitchell has identified as needing to be filled up front, although there are additional deficiencies behind the scrum. With service as slow as that by Richard Smith, Sale are always going to be under pressure.

It was perverse that Sale's best moment arrived when Baxendell was in the sin-bin and excellent passing enabled Davidson to level the scores at 13-13. They achieved parity again when O'Cuinneagain swooped to collect Davidson's chip from 40 metres out, before the inevitable implosion.

Newcastle, too, were generous in the possession that they turned over. Importantly, though, the champions were better organised and more disciplined in only their third away league win.

For Clive Woodward, the watching England coach, there were tries by Tony Underwood, for Newcastle, and the teenage Steve Hanley, for Sale, to mull over. The down sides were a stamping injury to Underwood, which could result in a citing once Newcastle have finishing studying the video, and the impression that as fine a prospect as Hanley is, he still has much to learn.

Jonny Wilkinson is another starlet who was rushed into the England side too soon. He is maturing with every match and as impressive as his place-kicking and attacking were, his defence was outstanding.

For Steve Bates, the Newcastle coach, sneaking up the blind side to reclaim the title is by no means impossible. "But we're also playing some good rugby," Bates said. "The players are under huge pressure. They don't know where the game's going because of the state it's in, but there's an environment at Newcastle in which they can go out and perform."

SCORERS: Sale: Tries: Hanley (40min), Davidson (52), O'Cuinneagain (66). Conversion: Howarth. Penalty goal: Howarth (41). Newcastle Falcons: Tries: Graham (25), Underwood (62), Vyvyan (83). Conversions: Wilkinson 2. Penalty goals: Wilkinson 3 (1, 12, 70).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Sale first): 0-3, 0-6, 0-13, 5-13 (half-time), 8-13, 13-13, 13-20, 20-20, 20-23, 20-28.
SALE: S Howarth; S Davidson, B-J Mather, C Yates (rep: M Moore, 82min), S Hanley; J Baxendell (sin-bin, 46-56), R Smith; P Winstanley (rep: D Williamson, 64), P Greening, D Bell, S Raiwalui, C Murphy, P Anglesea, A Sanderson, D O'Cuinneagain.
NEWCASTLE FALCONS: P Massey; J Naylor (rep: T Underwood, 40), M Shaw, R Andrew, V Tuigamala; J Wilkinson, G Armstrong; G Graham, R Nesdale, M Hurter (sin-bin, 76-80), G Weir, H Vyvyan, R Arnold (rep: I Peel, 77), J Cartmell (rep: P Walton, 58), R Beattie.
Referee: G Warren (Boston).

Scottish battle on in vain

Richmond..........40
London Scottish..........22

BY ALISON KERVIN

IT SEEMS a lifetime ago that Richmond and London Scottish shared the rickety Richmond Athletic Ground in a state of friendly co-operation and goodwill. The teams ran independently, but happily shared the facilities like the best of flat-mates. It was a bit like an episode of *Friends*.

Times have changed and, with the transformation of rugby, came the re-transplantation of both sides. Richmond were forced to move away from London altogether because of the local council's refusal to accept their development plans. That meant that London Scottish had to find a new home, too, and eventually settled in a less co-operative ground-share arrangement with Harlequins and London Broncos.

Richmond have fared much better than Scottish since professionalism arrived. Their move to share with Reading Football Club has given them a fabulous new stadium that has allowed them to double the gate and a new locale in which to develop a spectator base as they strive for long-term self-sufficiently. London Scottish, however, have failed to boost gates at their new ground and will be sold at the end of the season.

Geed up by a Richmond try in the opening minute, scored by Nick Walne, Scottish took the reigns and prevented a Richmond rout by defending stoically, attacking bravely and using the boot of Jannie de Beer. Richmond took the lead when Earl Va'a fed Allan Bateman for the first of his two tries. De Beer kept Scottish in touch with another penalty goal before Richmond began a try-scoring spectacular.

London Scottish officials insist that the team is not affected by the shenanigans off the field, but surely no team can be cohesive when it has no idea what it's fighting for.

SCORERS: Richmond: Tries: Walne (2min), Bateman 2 (40, 56), Quinnell (64), Vander (70), Hutton (80). Conversions: Va'a 4, Pini. London Scottish: Try: Hunter (78). Conversion: De Beer. Penalty goals: De Beer 4 (10, 15, 30, 62). Dropped goal: De Beer (33).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Richmond first): 5-0, 7-0, 7-3, 7-6, 7-9, 7-12, 12-12, 14-12 (half-time), 19-12, 19-15, 24-15, 26-15, 31-15, 33-15, 33-20, 33-22, 38-22, 40-22.
RICHMOND: M Pini; N Walne, A Bateman, M Deane, S Brown; E Va'a (rep: L Best, 74min), A Pichot; D McFarland, B Williams, J Davies (rep: D Crompton, 68), C Quinnell (rep: B Cusack, 75), C Gillies, R Hutton, B Clarke (rep: L Cabannes, 68), A Vander.
LONDON SCOTTISH: I McAusland; F Milligan, D Lee, R Eriksson (rep: R Dawes, 80), C Sharman; J de Beer (rep: S Forrest, 80); G Easterby; P Johnstone (rep: M MacDonald, 65), D Rudham (rep: D Cummins, 51), P Burnell, E Jones, M Watson (rep: M McAtamney, 76), S Fenn (rep: T Davis, 65), R Hunter, S Holmes.
Referee: S Lander (Liverpool)

Legge steps up the ladder of fortune

Maidstone..........6
Camborne..........5

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

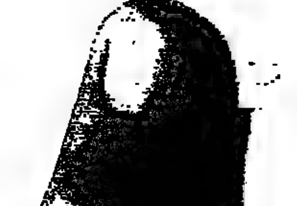
IF ANY confirmation were needed that Maidstone are on the way back up the national rugby ladder, this was it.

Having swept aside all before them this season to stand five points to the good in London League III South East, this victory, in the sixth round of the NPI Cup at The Mote on Saturday, puts them only two games from a final at Twickenham on April 17 and the embarrassment of three successive relegations — from 1994 to 1996 — is fast becoming a distant nightmare.

The appointment of John Legge, as director of coaching, has had much to do with this reversal of fortunes and, with Paul Essenhigh, the former Blackheath prop, at his side as player-coach, he has produced a side to whom winning has become a habit.

Camborne entered this match with only one victory east of the Tamar this winter, but they provided Maidstone with endless problems in set pieces and could have stolen the game with the final kick: a penalty attempt that Phillip Wells pushed just right of the uprights. That he missed, though, was justice, because Maidstone were far better than the scoreline suggests.

SCORERS: Maidstone: Penalty goals: D Charlton 2 (8min, 25). Camborne: Try: G Nichols (13).



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Scrum half takes leading role in impressive victory over combative Swansea

Saracens inspired by Bracken

Saracens.....59
Swansea.....29

BY BARNEY SPENDER

ANYONE who believes that these Anglo-Welsh matches live up to their billing as "friendlies" should think again. There were a couple of ugly incidents, notably when Dean Thomas, the replacement Swansea flanker, was sent off by Fred Howard in the 64th minute for deliberately elbowing George Chuter, the Saracens hooker, in the face — but this was by no means a dirty game.

Rather it was hard, fast and physical, a wonderful exhibition of rugby. Unfortunately, the lack of video viewing facilities meant that the disciplinary committee of Howard and the two team managers, Baden Evans, of Swansea, and Mike Scott, of Saracens, were unable to make a decision on the fate of Thomas. He should, however, know by Wednesday whether he will be free to face Newport in the SWALEC Cup on Saturday.

Swansea came into the game leading the Anglo-Welsh table, but Saracens, who won the corresponding encounter at St Helen's in October and beat Cardiff at home last week, were in third position and in no mood to save themselves exclusively for the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

In his programme notes, Nigel Wray, the Saracens owner, lent his weight to the cause for a British league and, on the field, his players backed those words with some splendid action. "I think it is blasé of anyone to say we were good in parts," Francois Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, said afterwards. "I thought we were brilliant in the second half, it was our best team performance of the season."

The spark was Kyran Bracken, whose season has been so fragmented by injury. Yesterday, captaining the side for the first time in the continuing absence of Pienaar, he shone for an hour before a wayward elbow sent him scampering to the dressing-room for stitches in his left cheek.

It was his sharp break that opened the way for Steve Ravenscroft to score the opening try after just 62sec and he remained a constant menace throughout, completely overshadowing Robert Jones, the former Wales scrum half, who was "on permit" from Cardiff for this game.

Bracken was given the man-of-the-match award, but he must have been hard-pushed by Rob Thirlby, who came on as a replacement for Gavin Johnson at full back in the 64th minute. The 19-year-old from Redruth had time to kick a couple of penalty goals, convert two tries and score one of the outstanding individual tries of the season, a mazy 70-metre run.

Saracens were out of the blocks so quickly that Swansea were 12 points down after just five minutes. After Ravenscroft's opening score, Brendon Daniel, the left wing, retrieved his own mistake by collecting a loose ball on halfway and careering down the touchline. He was tackled just short of the line, but Phil Ogilvie, the flanker, was on his shoulder to complete the score.

Roused from their torpor, the Swansea forwards, closely watched by Graham Henry, the Wales coach, began to punch holes in the Saracens defence. They were rewarded with a try by Matthew Robinson and, for the remainder of the half, they held the upper hand. They pegged back the lead through a penalty try, when the Saracens scrum collapsed three times on its own line, and Swansea went ahead on the stroke of half-time when Lee Davies kicked the second of his four penalty goals.

The second half, however, belonged entirely to Saracens, who ran in six tries to become the first English side to score 50 points against a Welsh team this season. Two tries in three minutes from Daniel and Barry Lea set things rolling and another from Bracken took them into a 34-21 lead. Swansea reduced the deficit to just five points, but once Thomas had been shown the red card, Saracens ran riot.

SCORERS: Saracens: Tries: Ravenscroft (1), Ogilvie (5), Daniel 2 (48, 80), Lea (50), Bracken (53), Hill (70), Thirlby (75). Conversions: Johnson 3, Thirlby 2. Penalty goals: Johnson (32), Thirlby 2 (55, 69). Swansea: Tries: Robinson (11), penalty try (38), Weatherley (64). Conversion: Davies. Penalty goals: Davies 4 (15, 40, 52, 57).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Saracens first): 7-0, 12-0, 12-5, 12-8, 15-8, 15-15, 15-18 (half-time), 20-18, 27-18, 27-21, 34-21, 34-24, 34-29, 37-29, 40-29, 47-29, 52-29, 59-29.
SARACENS: G Johnson (rep: R Thirlby, 64min); B Lea, R Constable, S Ravenscroft, B Daniel, A Penaud, K Bracken (rep: M Olsen, 59), B Reidy, G Chuter, A Olver (rep: D Flatman, 69), C Yandell (rep: P Johns, 30), D Grewcock, P Ogilvie, R Hill, B Cole (rep: A Diprose, 40).
SWANSEA: D Weatherley; R Rees, M Taylor, S Gibbs (rep: C van Rensburg, 74), M Robinson; L Davies (rep: A Dawson, 75), R Jones, D Morris, G Jenkins, C Anthony (rep: B Evans, 74), T Maullin (rep: A Moore, 42), P Arnold, P Moriarty (rep: D Thomas, 55, sent off, 64), C Charvis, L Jones.
Referee: F Howard (Liverpool).



Jones shows all his old poise in whipping the ball away from a Swansea scrum at Vicarage Road yesterday

ANGLO-WELSH TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swansea	20	14	0	6	618	421	38
Northampton	20	14	0	6	527	433	28
Saracens	20	13	1	6	622	449	27
Leicester	19	13	0	6	510	348	26
Cardiff	19	12	0	7	499	416	24
Newcastle	19	11	0	8	503	490	22
Bath	20	11	0	9	481	428	22
London Irish	19	11	0	8	478	445	22
Wasps	20	10	1	9	514	407	21
Richmond	18	10	1	7	470	495	21
Harlequins	18	9	0	9	449	454	18
Gloucester	20	8	1	11	400	432	17
Sale	19	7	0	12	454	543	14
London Scot	19	5	0	14	340	543	10
Bedford	19	2	0	17	371	611	4
W Hartlepool	19	2	0	17	304	680	4

Cardiff fail to convince in drab encounter

Cardiff.....14
Wasps.....10

BY GERALD DAVIES

THERE can hardly have been a game this season when the crowd so wished the enterprise to come to an end. There were ironic cheers when the final whistle was blown. This Anglo-Welsh club match was not a good game — even allowing for a constant drizzle and a sticky pitch.

The referee presented some problems to Weedon, the Wasps captain, with whom seemed to be in regular conversation. With a penalty count going against Wasps by 19-8, he may have had good cause. However, even if the Wasps felt hard done by, they were guilty of staying too close to the offside line.

With Cardiff enjoying more of the possession, they should have achieved more. They were prone to errors, of skill and of judgment. They kicked too often and too badly; their passing was too often array. They also found it difficult to release spare men in midfield.

When they did, Craig Morgan twice fluffed his lines. In the second half, he had his moments to run clear. On the first occasion, he had Sullivan free on his left, but the full back chose to ignore him and turned inside and a certain try went astray. On the second occasion, admittedly under more pressure, his pass to the wing was too high and another chance had gone astray.

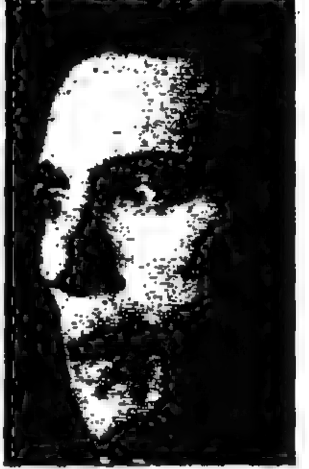
Sullivan's period in rugby union has not been a happy one. Injured in the early part of the season, he has missed his apprenticeship and, when he has played recently, he has not been used often enough.

Graham Henry, the Wales coach, is finding it difficult to find players to fit the bill on the wing. Sullivan gave him another option, but he is now on his way back to play league for St Helens. Sullivan remains a member of the Wales squad, but his immediate chance of playing in the international team is now remote. Indeed, Henry is more likely to pick Allan Bateman on the wing, leaving Mark Taylor at centre.

If Morgan had an off-day, Josh Lewsey, his opposite number, had a marvellous afternoon. It was his brilliant run from his own half, selling an exquisite dummy to Morgan while being chased by Tait, that gave his team the half-time lead, against a penalty by Jarvis.

Another Jarvis penalty narrowed the deficit and then, after throwing away many other chances, Cardiff took the lead with a try by Leigh Davies 17 minutes into the second half. From then on, the game became a slapdash affair.

SCORERS: Cardiff: Try: Davies (57min). Penalty goal: Jarvis (2). Dropped goal: Jarvis (79). Wasps: Try: Lewsey (27). Conversion: Rees. Penalty goal: Rees (73).
SCORING SEQUENCE (Cardiff first): 3-0, 3-7 (half-time), 6-7, 11-7, 11-10, 14-10.
CARDIFF: C Morgan, L Botham, M Hall, L Davies, A Sullivan, L Jarvis, R Howley, A Lewis (rep: S John, 70min), J Humphreys (rep: D Geraghty, 70), D Young (rep: L Mustoe, 40), S Moore, J Tait, O Williams, S Williams, G Kacala.
WASPS: J Lewsey; S Roiser, N Greenstock, F Waters, P Sampson (rep: J Ufton, 46; rep: M Denney, 86); G Rees, M Wood, D Molloy, D Alexopolous (rep: D Macer, 60), W Green, M Weedon, S Shaw, J Worsley, P Volley, P Scrivener.
Referee: D Price (Newport).



Sullivan: unhappy time

Melville assumes control at Wasps

BY MARK SOUSTER

NIGEL MELVILLE will assume responsibility for first-team coaching at Wasps after the surprise decision to demote Rob Smith, who now takes charge of the academy and youth squads. Melville, the director of rugby, said: "We are changing the emphasis and freshening and restructuring our coaching."

Smith has been part of the Wasps furniture for 25 years, first as a player, then, for the past 14 years, as coach. "I will miss not coaching and selecting the first team," Smith, who has also worked with England A, said. "The bottom line for me has always been the continuing success of this club."

A series of meetings that should go some way to shaping the future structure of the game are scheduled this week; the most important is that of English First-Division Rugby, which is expected to decide tomorrow on its preferred options. Whatever scenario it settles on, it is likely to antagonise clubs lower down the leagues. Yesterday, the National Clubs' Association, which represents 42 clubs in the Jewson National League, condemned plans for an Anglo-Welsh league.

Meeting in Walsall, they pledged to call a special general meeting of the Rugby Football Union, amid concerns that their collective future and that of other junior clubs is being sacrificed at the expense of the top clubs in the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Russ Jenkins, the chairman of Manchester, said: "The feeling is unanimous that we will not accept an Anglo-Welsh league. It makes no sense to me. Why should money go to Welsh clubs at the expense of ours?"

RACING: CHAMPION HURDLER TREATS FRENCH HOLLY WITH DISDAIN AS HE WARMS UP FOR TITLE DEFENCE

Istabraq gives command performance

FROM CHRIS McGRATH
AT LEOPARDSTOWN

IT DOES not pay to be too credulous in racing, but there are times when one is better off accepting an air of greatness at face value. Nobody ever suggested that Istabraq was a counterfeit champion, but at Leopardstown yesterday he revealed a watermark of breathtaking clarity against the most brilliant light available.

He did not just beat French Holly, a different calibre of horse from most of those he had brushed aside in establishing his dominion. He humiliated him.

BIG-RACE DETAILS

2.45 AIG EUROPE CHAMPION HURDLE (Grade 1, 2m, £37,250)
1, ISTABRAQ (C F Swan, 8-15 fav); 2, French Holly (A Maguire, 9-4); 3, Zafarabad (R Johnson, 16-1); 4, Theatreworld (T P Treacy, 16-1). ALSO RAN: 16 Nomadic (5th), 66 Black Queen (6th). 6 Ran. NR: Shantanni. 1l, 7l, 2l. Dist. A P O'Brien at Piltown, Co Kilkenny. Tote £1.50, £1.30, £1.30. DF: £1.70. CSF: £2.01.

Istabraq won the AIG Europe Champion Hurdle with such exaggerated leisure, with such mockery, that the defence of his Smurfit Champion Hurdle crown at Cheltenham now appears a mere lap of honour. The Tote quotes him at 13-8 on, Ladbrokes just 2-1 on.

Coral even sought to resurrect the market by offering 6-4 against him winning by more than six lengths. Aidan O'Brien, his trainer, made that sound eminently reasonable with a breezy assurance that he would be sending an even better horse to Cheltenham. The way he was talking, in fact, it was surprising that Istabraq had not collapsed with exhaustion after a circuit of the paddock.

"He was a good bit off today," O'Brien said. "He was 15 kilos heavier than last year. When we weighed him last night, we weren't sure we were doing the right thing running, but he had to have a race. He improved so much for this day last year that I'd say he's going to improve a lot before Cheltenham. Seven pounds? It could be a lot more than that."

Ferdy Murphy, the trainer of French Holly, absorbed the shocking manner of his defeat with dignity, but it must have hurt to see the colossal gelding stretch for home to no discernible effect. Adrian Maguire had been obliged to make his own running, an enterprise at least rewarded by its liberating effect on French Holly's jumping, which — bar the third last — was more fluid than has often been the case.

The big horse had been so remorseless in similar ground at Kempton over Christmas that Charlie Swan made sure he kept Istabraq at the head of the chasing pack, but he did not share their increasing alarm as Maguire tried to open up turning into the straight.

Instead, he took the first of several satirical looks over the shoulder as Istabraq sauntered upsides and went a length up after the last. Swan was so determined to rub Maguire's nose into the ground that he deceived the crowd into wondering if French Holly's brave rally might yet punish his mischief. It took but one perfunctory push, however, to preserve a length's advantage at the line, which Swan crossed exploding with mirth and clenching an exultant fist.

"It's good for the horse, gives him confidence," O'Brien said. "He's getting more confident, and he's getting quicker. We've thought all year that he was a much improved horse, much stronger. Charlie said he did everything very quickly."

Swan confirmed later: "He travelled super and was brilliant at the third last and again two out. I didn't even have to ask him to close."

Murphy fears that the race is now for place money only. "Istabraq is a brilliant champion," he said. "My lad jumped great, apart from the third last, and I'd like to see what would happen if we could sit behind with him instead. But the writing was on the wall a long way out."

Istabraq bears the green standard at the Festival, clearly, but he will have formidable support — even if, on the face of it, His Song did not strike precisely the right note in the Baileys Arkle Perpetual Trophy.

He cruised into the lead but then had to be driven so firmly to hold off Padre Mio that Shay Barry was banned for four days. Mouse Morris, however, was adamant that His Song had run an ideal Guinness Arkle Trophy trial.

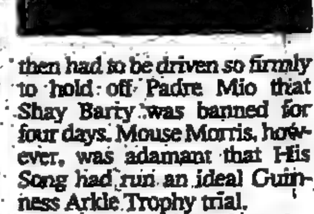
"That was perfect," the trainer said. "Obviously, it's disappointing he didn't win by further, but they went no gallop in this tacky ground. He needs a really good gallop and he might have been a little bit short as well." The trainer added: "I liked the way he battled."

After racing, Florida Pearl, Ireland's big hope for the Tote Gold Cup, returned to the scene of his fall in the Ericsson Chase — and of his next appearance in the Hennessy Gold Cup on Sunday week — for a round of careful schooling. They think he has the makings of greatness over here. He need not seek far for inspiration.

CAROLINE NORRIS



Istabraq, left, leaves French Holly in his wake as he clears the last on his way to an impressive victory at Leopardstown yesterday



Nicholls prepares Festival agenda

BY OUR RACING STAFF

CALL EQUINAME, the game winner of the rescheduled Victor Chandler Chase at Kempton Park on Saturday, will go straight to Cheltenham for the Queen Mother Champion Chase. The second leg of a treble for trainer Paul Nicholls and jockey Robert Thornton, Call Equiname got up on the run-in to beat the favourite, Get Real, by a neck in the two-mile event.

"It was only the horse's fourth run over fences," Nicholls said. "He jumped well apart from getting in a bit close to the last. He will have an easy fortnight, then we'll pick him up and go straight to Cheltenham. We can get him fit at home and he seems to go well fresh." Call Equiname is 8-1 with William Hill for the Champion Chase.

Flagship Uberalles began the treble with a stylish performance in the Twickenham Novices' Chase, and may be on course for the Cheltenham Festival. "He could go for the Arkle Challenge Trophy but I haven't discussed it with the owners yet," Nicholls added. "He's only five and he would prefer better ground than yesterday's. But it was an improved performance and he'll run next at either Warwick or Ascot on February 20."

Storm Damage completed the three-timer in the Fulwell Handicap Chase, but it was not all plain sailing for the yard as Calling Wild finished a well-beaten sixth to General Wolfe when sent off 7-2 favourite for the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock Park.

Calling Wild had won the valuable Paddy Power Handicap Chase at Leopardstown on his previous start and Nicholls said: "He never put a foot wrong round Leopardstown but didn't like those big upright fences at Haydock. At least it told us there is no point going for the Gold Cup or National with him and his Festival target will be the National Hunt Handicap Chase."

WETHERBY

THUNDERER
1.15 Flower O'Cannie
1.45 Torn Silk
2.15 Master Pilgrim
2.45 Naughty Future
3.15 SALEEL (nap)
3.45 Raivue

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.15 MASTER PILGRIM.

GOING: SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

1.15 PINDER DALE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE
(4-Y-O: £2,250: 2m) (7 runners)

1 41 UNIFORM 18 (D,S) (C Platts) Miss S Hall 10-13 — S Durack [illegible]
2 3P6 BHUTAN 28 (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 10-12 — P Niven 76
3 553P4 COURT ORDEAL 37 (S) (Time & Leisure Ltd) R N Bevis 10-12 — Mr R Forristal (5) 84
4 SALFORD 164F (Silver Cod Partnership) P R Webber 10-12 — J Osborne —
5 FLOWER O'CANNIE 79F (Mrs E Rhind) M W Easterby 10-7 — R Garritty —
6 053 GRACIE GREY 18 (Rowland Hill) Mrs S Lamyman 10-7 — R Farrant 59
7 STONE BECK 130F (Mr & Mrs J Davenport) J Jefferson 10-7 — L Wyer —

BETTING: 5-4 Uniform, 11-4 Bhutan, 7-1 Court Ordeal, 8-1 Salford, 10-1 Flower O'Cannie, 12-1 Gracie Grey, 20-1 Stone Beck.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.

FORM FOCUS Uniform beat Dangerman 10l in 18-runner novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, soft), previously 24l 4th of 13 to Simply Gifted in 3yo novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft) with Bhutan (6lb better off) 32l 6th. Court Ordeal 25l 4th of 19 to Behrajan in 3yo novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft). Flower O'Cannie useful middle-distance handicapper on the Flat, winning at Newcastle and Musselburgh (both 1m 4f) last October. Gracie Grey 11l 3rd of 8 to Devonshire in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, heavy), previously 21l 5th of 14 to Legend Of Love in junior novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Stone Beck far maiden middle-distance/staying handicapper on the Flat.

UNIFORM ran out a comfortable winner latest and promises to take all the beating

1.45 SKIPLAM NOVICES CHASE (£3,581: 2m) (5 runners)

1 -0363F CLAVERING 7 (Mrs K Woodhead) E Caine 9-11-3 — Gary Lyons 93
2 0-4208 FORESHORE MAN 7 (S) (J M G Promotions Ltd) B Rothwell 8-11-3 — A S Smith —
3 10-U2F FOUNDRY LANE 30 (D,G) (A Sharratt) Mrs M Reveley 8-11-3 — Mr A Dempsey (3) 109
4 00533 INDEPENDENT GREY 25 (Mrs E Brindle) Mrs S Smith 8-11-3 — Mr J Crowley (5) 92
5 -05331 TORN SILK 10 (D,G,S) (Lady Bamford) P R Webber 5-11-0 — J Osborne [illegible]

BETTING: 10-11 Torn Silk, 5-4 Foundry Lane, 14-1 Independent Grey, 25-1 Clavering, Foreshore Man.

FORM FOCUS Clavering fell in novice handicap chase at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good), previously beaten a distance 3rd of 4 to Cherokee Chief in novice chase at Haydock (2m 4f, soft). Foreshore Man brought down in novice chase at Doncaster (3m, good), previously 52l 14th of 19 to Rossie Bob in novice handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Foundry Lane fell in novice chase at Wetherby (2m, good to soft), previously 1½l 2nd of 12 to Dee in novice chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good). Independent Grey 13l 3rd of 8 to Fils De Cresson in maiden chase at Catterick (2m, good to soft), previously 15l 3rd of 9 to Ballad Minstrel in novice chase at Catterick (2m, soft). Torn Silk beat Bamburgh Boy 10l in 10-runner novice chase at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft), previously 12l 3rd of 9 to Neat Feat in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, good to soft).

FOUNDRY LANE has failed to complete on two of his three chase starts but has bundles of ability

2.15 POCKLEY NH NOVICES HURDLE (£3,038: 2m 4f 110yd) (11 runners)

1 41 CARBURY CROSS 11 (CD,S) (Duchess of Westminster) J J O'Neill 5-11-12 — R McGrath 109
2 404-40 CASUAL CALL 62 (J Blundell) T Easterby 7-11-6 — L Wyer —
3 -6P038 EDSTONE 55 (Mrs M Curtis) J Curtis 7-11-6 — R Thornton 55
4 06-203 GLOBAL LEGEND 42 (I Emmerson) I Emmerson 9-11-6 — J Supple 77
5 46242- MASTER PILGRIM 304 (BF) (Winning Line) Miss V Williams 7-11-6 — N Williamson [illegible]
6 4 MEADOWBANK 11 (G Shiels) M W Easterby 5-11-6 — R Garritty 95
7 00-P POU NOU 17 (R Sturgess) Mrs P Sly 6-11-6 — W Marston —
8 21-101 PROMINENT PROFILE 28 (G,S) (Son Partnership) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-6 — C Llewellyn —
9 65-334 SUMO 30 (Mrs J Woodward) Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-6 — R Farrant 78
10 PF- WAG THE BRUSH 260P (P Tyler) Mrs M Reveley 7-11-6 — P Niven —
11 50-000 WILLIAM OF ORANGE 42 (Special Reserve Racing) J Jefferson 7-11-6 — A S Smith 27

BETTING: 6-4 Master Pilgrim, 11-4 Prominent Profile, 7-2 Carbury Cross, 10-1 Meadowbank, 14-1 Global Legend, 16-1 Sumo, 20-1 Casual Call, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Carbury Cross beat Gus Berry 9l in 13-runner novice hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) with Meadowbank (6lb better off) 19l 4th. Casual Call 45l 8th of 11 to Mr Busby in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft), previously 30l 4th of 11 to Ahsaylad/doubleyou in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, soft). Edstone 29l 6th of 13 to Kingsmark in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, good to soft): previously 12l 3rd of 9 to Cathedral Belle in novice hurdle at Sedgefield (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). Global Legend 17l 3rd of 19 to Michaine in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m 4f, heavy) with William Of Orange (levels) 70l 12th. Master Pilgrim 2½l 2nd of 20 to Marlborough in maiden hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft), previously 8½l 4th of 16 to Montroe in novice handicap hurdle grade 3 at Sandown (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Pou Nou pulled up in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy), previously beaten a distance 11th of 14 to Knock Leader in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, good to soft). Prominent Profile beat Frosty Canyon 6l in 8-runner nat hunt flat (grade 2) at Chepstow (2m 110yd, soft), previously 29l 11th of 18 to Scarlet Emperor in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Sumo 18l 4th of 11 to Springfield Scally in maiden hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 3f 110yd, soft), previously 26l 3rd of 8 to Black Bullet in novice hurdle at Market Rasen (2m 1f 110yd, heavy).

The ex-Toby Balding-trained MASTER PILGRIM looks sure to win races for his new handler

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
P R Webber	5	9	55.6	A Dempsey	3	5	60.0
C Grant	6	20	30.0	L Wyer	43	153	28.1
T Easterby	32	136	23.5	J Osborne	5	19	26.3
Mrs M Reveley	35	165	21.2	S Durack	5	24	20.8
J Jefferson	6	31	19.4	P Niven	27	130	20.8
Mrs S Smith	18	99	18.2	R McGrath	7	41	17.1

2.45 CARLTON HANDICAP CHASE
(£5,477: 3m 1f) (7 runners)

1 3011F- A N C EXPRESS 324 (BF,G,S) (H Porter) J King 11-11-10 — T Jenks 143
2 211-21 NAUGHTY FUTURE 75 (D,G,S) (A Collins) J J O'Neill 10-11-4 — R McGrath 141
3 11U-12 FEELS LIKE GOLD 30 (D,S) (Independent Twine Man. Co) N Richards 11-10-12 — A Dobbin 127
4 -11423 SHARE OPTIONS 11 (CD,F,S) (S Hammond) T Easterby 8-10-9 — L Wyer 140
5 /1F/1/ ISLAND CHIEF 779 (CD,G,S) (G Dilger) P Beaumont 10-10-7 — R Supple —
6 3U-213 FLAT TOP 16 (C,D,S) (Major M Watson) M W Easterby 8-10-0 — C McCormack (3) [illegible]
7 P-6210 HAG'S WAY 25 (D,G,S) (Mrs A O'Sullivan) J Howard Johnson 9-10-0 — N Williamson 77

Long handicap: Hag's Way 9-11.

BETTING: 5-2 Naughty Future, 7-2 Feels Like Gold, 4-1 Share Options, 5-1 A N C Express, 6-1 Flat Top, 10-1 Island Chief, 16-1 Hag's Way.

FORM FOCUS A N C Express fell in handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, soft), previously beat Andre Laval 7l in 9-runner handicap chase at Warwick (3m 5f, good). Naughty Future beat Davy Blake 12l in 6-runner handicap chase at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, soft), previously 1l 2nd of 10 to Burnt Imp in handicap chase at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Feels Like Gold 15l 3rd of 5 to Santa Concerto in handicap chase at Ayr (3m 1f, heavy); previously beat All The Aces 1l in 9-runner handicap chase at Kelso (3m 1f, heavy). Share Options 11l 3rd of 6 to Step On Eyre in handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, heavy), previously 9l 2nd of 4 to Madison County in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (3m, soft). Island Chief beat Ali's Alibi 9l in 9-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (3m 1f, good to soft). Flat Top 15l 3rd of 11 to Galen in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft); previously beat Jennie's Prospect 1l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). Hag's Way 59l 7th of 14 to The Next Waltz in handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Tait's Clock 18l in 6-runner handicap chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, good).

NAUGHTY FUTURE showed his liking for a testing surface latest and remains well treated

3.15 RICCAL DALE HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,786: 3m 1f) (7 runners)

1 -21521 BIRKDALE 9 (D,S) (E Birkbeck) L Lungo 8-12-0 — W Dowling (5) 116
2 134-41 THE BUTTERWICK KID 28 (C,S) (R Chambers & Mrs M Kenyon) R Fahey 6-11-2 — L Wyer 102
3 1-44F2 FOR CATHAL 28 (G,S) (D Hall) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-13 — P Niven 119
4 42-121 SALEEL 21 (S) (Waterfall Racing) Mrs L Wadham 7-10-10 — Mr R Forristal (5) 110
5 -01231 YOUNG THRUSTER 30 (S) (G MacEchern) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-4 — C Llewellyn 113
6 204153 WONTCOSTALOTBUT 12 (S) (Wontcostalot Partnership) M Wilkinson 5-10-1 — W Marston [illegible]
7 34-11P DOUBLE STRIKE 37 (S) (Heroes Partnership) Mrs P Sly 8-10-0 — D McPhail (5) 112

Long handicap: Double Strike 9-12.

BETTING: 5-2 Young Thruster, 3-1 The Butterwick Kid, 7-2 Birkdale, 11-2 For Cathal, 8-1 Saleel, 12-1 Wontcostalotbut, 16-1 Double Strike.

FORM FOCUS Birkdale beat Seven Towers 7l in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Newcastle (3m, soft), previously neck 2nd of 4 to Scotton Green in novice chase at Catterick (3m 1f 110yd, soft). The Butterwick Kid beat For Cathal (8lb better off) 10l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, soft). Saleel beat Polyphony 7l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy); previously 3½l 2nd of 13 to Kingsmark in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Young Thruster beat Supreme Day 1½l in 15-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (3m 2f, soft), previously 12l 3rd of 11 to Bowles Patrol in novice handicap hurdle at Plumpton (3m 110yd, good to soft). Wontcostalotbut 11l 3rd of 17 to Atavistic in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, heavy); previously 31l 5th of 11 to Sorbiere in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy). Double Strike pulled up in novice handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (3m 110yd, heavy); previously beat Grange 3½l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Towcester (3m, soft).

SALEEL's only reverse this season came at the hands of Saturday's useful Kempton winner, Kingsmark

3.45 BEADLAM SPRINGS NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,390: 2m) (9 runners)

1 00/060 BUKEHORN 39 (Mrs P Sly) Mrs P Sly 8-11-6 — W Marston 54
2 01-2F4 CHIEF WARDANCE 42 (D,F) (Mrs J Woodward) Mrs S Lamyman 5-11-6 — R Farrant 56
3 RAIVUE 126F (C Stevens) T Easterby 5-11-6 — L Wyer —
4 060-00 ROCKY MY BOY 18 (J Henderson (Co Durham)) Mrs S Smith 5-11-6 — Mr J Crowley (5) 27
5 4/ SAMAKAAN 787 (Lady Harris) Miss V Williams 6-11-6 — N Williamson —
6 0-0 STILL FRIENDS 56 (E Fenwick & P Manners) C Grant 6-11-6 — C McCormack (3) —
7 04 THE GIPFEL 58 (Lord Daresbury & J Greenall) C Grant 5-11-6 — R Supple —
8 00-P6 MERRY CHRISTMAS 40 (E Owen) E Owen Jun 6-11-1 — Michael Brennan —
9 32021 DANGERMAN 9 (D,S) (S Curtis) M W Easterby 4-11-0 — R Garritty [illegible]

BETTING: 9-4 Dangerman, 5-2 Chief Wardance, 4-1 Samakaan, 6-1 Raivue, 8-1 Bukehorn, 14-1 The Gipfel, 25-1 Rocky My Boy, 33-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Bukehorn 24l 7th of 13 to Picasso in novice hurdle at Towcester (2m, soft), previously 32l 5th of 11 to Bozandi in novice hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). Chief Wardance 13l 4th of 14 to Lord Lamb in novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, heavy). Raivue useful middle-distance handicapper on Flat, sold 34,000gns in October. Samakaan 21l 4th of 21 to White Sea in 3yo juvenile novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Still Friends beaten a distance 9th of 10 to Classical Dance in novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, heavy), previously beaten a distance 33rd of 25 to Mr Busby in national hunt flat race at Newcastle (2m, good to soft). The Gipfel beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Teelin Bay in amateur maiden hurdle at Kelso (2m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously 56l 9th of 18 to Becca's Rose in national hunt flat race at Carlisle (2m 1f, soft). Merry Christmas 16l 6th of 13 to Polar Champ in novice hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, good to soft). Dangerman beat Cadillac Jukebox 7l in 8-runner 4yo novice hurdle at Newcastle (2m, soft), previously 10l 2nd of 18 to Uniform in novice hurdle at Catterick (2m, soft) with Rocky My Boy (6lb better off) 56l 10th.

DANGERMAN is progressing along the right lines, benefiting from new hold-up tactics last time

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Southwell: 1.30 Lake Mehra, Ultra Calm. 2.30 Best Quest. 3.00 Zola Power. 3.30 Inner Light, Repton.

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

TRAINERS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Wins steep rate	Level stake
M Pipe	98	58	60	2	-76.83
Mrs M Reveley	62	53	42	2	+3.50
P Nicholls	60	53	16	2	-20.70
P Hobbs	57	54	29	4	+10.85
D Nicholson	49	39	36	2	-22.09
N Henderson	39	25	24	4	+14.38
Miss V Williams	35	19	23	2	+18.27
N Twiston-Davies	35	38	26	12	-35.57
L Lungo	34	23	13	3	-1.27
J J O'Neill	28	28	22	4	+15.42

JOCKEYS

	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stake
A P McCoy	93	57	45	2	-81.78
R Johnson	80	77	84	3	-80.93
R Dunwoody	77	42	35	8	-8.00
M A Fitzgerald	71	38	46	2	+19.28
N Williamson	67	44	41	1	+23.32
T J Murphy	49	34	25	10	+137.89
C Llewellyn	45	51	45	16	-119.32
W Marston	44	39	41	3	-15.59
A Maguire	42	35	34	5	-82.08
J Tizzard	41	44	27	4	-60.03

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Haydock Park

Going: soft (heavy in places)

12.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Windross (A Maguire, 2-7 fav); 2, Lucky Ross (11-2); 3, Prairie Indian (66-1). 10 ran. ½l, 19l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.40; £1.20, £1.30, £4.20. DF: £2.10. CSF: £2.18.

1.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, Fourth In Line (N Williamson, 10-11 fav); 2, Scrahan Cross (16-1); 3, Gallant Taffy (10-1). 5 ran. ¾l, dist. Miss V Williams. Tote: £1.90; £1.30, £3.50. DF: £8.50. CSF: £11.90.

1.45 (2m 7f hdle) 1, Deano's Beeno (J Osborne, 4-11 fav); 2, Moorish (4-1); 3, Pharanear (25-1). 5 ran. 22l, 9l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.70. DF: £2.20. CSF: £2.31.

2.15 (3m ch) 1, General Wolfe (N Williamson, 4-1); 2, Simply Dashing (10-1); 3, Random Harvest (4-1). 10 ran. 4l, ½l. Miss V Williams. Tote: £4.80; £1.80, £2.60, £1.90. DF: £31.90. CSF: £38.80. Tricast: £153.02.

2.45 (2m hdle) 1, Master Beveled (G Tormey, 12-1); 2, Wahiba Sands (11-4 fav); 3, Toto Toscato (7-2). 6 ran. 1l, 18l. P Evans. Tote: £12.40; £2.60, £2.00. DF: £14.30. CSF: £41.85.

3.20 (2m ch) 1, Super Coin (N Williamson, 9-2); 2, Nearly An Eye (7-4 fav); 3, Barnegeera Boy (8-1). 6 ran. NR: Celibate, Flying Instructor. 6l, 17l. R Lee. Tote: £5.00; £2.10, £1.40. DF: £6.40. CSF: £11.69. Tricast: £49.41.

3.50 (2m flat) 1, Kingfisher Flyer (J Osborne, 11-4); 2, Just Jenny (25-1); 3, Red Hot Indian (2-1 fav). 8 ran. 10l, 2½l. P Webber. Tote: £3.30; £1.50, £2.40, £1.30. DF: £48.60. CSF: £53.83.

Placepot: £13.80. Quadpot: £8.40.

Kempton Park

12.30 1, Flagship Uberalles (8-5); 2, Eagles Rest (5-6 fav); 3, Welsh Harvest (100-1). 4 ran. NR: Rockforce.

1.00 1, Kingsmark (8-11 fav); 2, Gentle Ravage (5-1); 3, Greycoat Boy (33-1). 9 ran.

1.30 1, Marlborough (11-10 fav); 2, Spring Double (9-1); 3, Act Of Faith (8-1). 8 ran.

2.05 1, Tassinal (11-2); 2, Pealings (8-1); 3, Sulawesi (11-1). World Express 9-4 fav. 10 ran.

2.35 1, Call Equiname (15-2); 2, Get Real (15-8 fav); 3, Celibate (7-1). 7 ran. NR: Monnae Forte.

3.10 1, Tiutchev (15-8 fav); 2, Mister Rm (16-1); 3, Seasnus (4-1). 8 ran. NR: Frogmarch.

3.40 1, Storm Damage (7-2); 2, The Land Agent (11-4 fav); 3, Dantes Cavalier (5-1). 7 ran. NR: Flying Instructor.

4.15 1, The Extra Man (16-1); 2, Wild About You (4-1); 3, Persempa Cindrella (20-1). Montpelier 5-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Royal Tine.

Catterick

12.50 1, Just Lizzie (11-1); 2, Dorans Way (7-1); 3, Monas (7-1). Kirgan 5-1 fav. 15 ran.

1.20 1, Castletown Count (7-1); 2, Joe Shaw (7-1); 3, Balsamwadden (5-2 fav). 10 ran.

1.50 1, Be Brave (8-1); 2, Count Joker (12-1); 3, Jack Flush (8-1). Parklife 5-2 fav. 11 ran. NR: Fortune Hopper.

2.20 1, Bamburgh Boy (1-2 fav); 2, Banker Count (15-8); 3, Brave Man (50-1). 4 ran. NR: Ballad Minstrel.

2.50 1, What A Tale (11-4); 2, Native Buck (13-8 fav); 3, Ferni (2-1). 9 ran. NR: Elearoni, Hit The Man.

3.25 1, Tote's River (5-2); 2, Santa Jet (15-8 fav); 3, Kibby Bank (9-2). 9 ran.

3.55 1, Ireland's Eye (33-1); 2, Regal Island (20-1); 3, Steeters Dream (25-1). Super Nomad 7-2 fav. 17 ran.

Lingfield Park

1.25 1, Half Tone (7-4 fav); 2, Dancing Jack (9-1); 3, Dande Times (9-1). 10 ran.

2.00 1, Three Bay Trees (7-1); 2, Iconic (6-1); 3, Brenda Dee (3-1 fav). 12 ran.

2.30 1, Jewel Shrine (8-11 fav); 2, Ki Chi Saga (12-1); 3, Enton (6-1). 8 ran.

3.05 1, Acid Test (9-4); 2, Bantons (9-1); 3, Noble Water (33-1). Pagaboy 2-1 fav. 7 ran.

3.35 1, Lincoln Dean (10-1); 2, Love Diamonds (1-2 fav); 3, Melody Queen (5-1). 6 ran.

4.05 1, Isabella Gonzaga (3-1); 2, Steeve Silk (evens fav); 3, Night Auction (11-1). 8 ran.

Wolverhampton

7.00 1, Love Blues (10-11 fav); 2, Scarlet Sceptre (11-8); 3, Diamond Blush (40-1). 7 ran.

7.30 1, Bold Frontier (11-2); 2, Pride of Brixton (2-1 fav); 3, Little Ibnr (20-1). 11 ran.

8.00 1, Sudest (5-4 fav); 2, Stero Heights (5-1); 3, Lysandros (9-1). 7 ran.

8.30 1, Thelinyself (5-2); 2, Flugway (9-4 fav); 3, Killarney Jazz (15-2). 5 ran. NR: Hever Golf Glory.

9.00 1, Rayme (100-30 fav); 2, Without Friends (8-1); 3, Arrington Girl (20-1). 12 ran.

9.30 1, High Noon (4-1); 2, Araish (8-1); 3, Prospector's Cove (5-1). 9 ran.

Lord Relic left behind

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

LORD RELIC'S class was not enough to carry him to victory in desperately tiring ground at the **Point-to-point Owners and Riders Club** meeting yesterday.

Stan Clarke's 13-year-old finished third behind Better Future and Carykinov in the men's open, beaten three lengths and 25 lengths. Better Future (7-1), ridden by Tim Stevenson, has won over four miles and that stamina proves the vital factor after the first two drew well clear. Lord Relic remains on course for Aintree's Fox Hunters' Chase.

Andrew Dalton, the joint-men's champion, rode his first winner of the season when Mickthecutaway was the only finisher in the ten-runner intermediate and Mizyan (Polly Gundry) landed the ladies' open for the Richard Barber's powerful stable.

Tim Mitchell, favourite to win the national men's championship for the first time, got off the mark for the season at Saturday's **Silverton** meeting on the Ollie Cann-trained Spread The Word (4-7).

Polly Curling and Ashley Farrant landed doubles, Curling scoring on Play Poker (4-5) and Camillas Legacy (4-5), while Farrant teamed up with trainer David Pipe for Shafi (7-2) and Well Armed (7-4).

Punters were on the receiving end at the **Cambridgeshire** meeting, most emphatically when Native Venture (20-1) won the ladies' open, ending Cache Fleur's unbeaten run between the flags and relegating champion mare Lily The Lark back to third.

Emma Coveney, from Ashdown Forest in Kent, owns, trains and rides Native Venture, who will be aimed at the Marlborough Cup timber race in May. On the first day of the season, Native Venture had been beaten a distance at Cottenham by The Auctioneer, but the grey had devalued the form when succumbing to Real Value (6-4) in the PPORA members' race. Real Value, also a Cottenham winner, provided another success for trainer Di Grissell and rider Paul Hacking, their third from four runners in 1999.

Caroline Bailey, trainer of The Auctioneer and whose horses have been in tremendous form, saddled Copper Thistle (6-1) to win the men's open under owner Richard Hunnisett.

THUNDERER
1.00 Lucky Touch. 1.30 Risky Way. 2.00 The Wild Widow. 2.30 Dahlidya. 3.00 Elton Ledger. 3.30 Dick Turpin.

GOING: STANDARD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE

1.00 JADE JEWEL MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (£2,190: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

101 (5) 3 LUCKY TOUCH 16 W Muir 8-9-2 — Martin Dwyer 54
102 (1) 0/ SOHANDAMANA 84J J Norton 6-9-2 — D Pears —
103 (7) 260/ STRETCHING 48J A Jarvis 6-9-2 — V Slattery —
104 (8) 408- APPYABO 58J M Quinn 4-8-12 — J P Spencer (3) [illegible]
105 (4) 2-54 DUDLEY ALLEN 14 T Clement 4-8-12 — T G McLaughlin 49
106 (9) 000- NO SHOES NO NEWS 54J M Buckley 4-8-12 — A Culhane 20
107 (2) 00- SILVER SPIDER 216 Mrs S Lamyman 4-8-12 — G Teague (3) 14
108 (6) -236 BLUE HOPPER 7 M Quinn 5-8-11 — F Norton 60
109 (3) 000- HAWKERKOP 98 (E) John Berry 4-8-7 — Declan O'Shea —

11-8 Lucky Touch, 3-1 Sohandamana, 7-1 Dudley Allen, 8-1 Blue Hopper, 10-1 Stretching, 12-1 No Shoes No News, 14-1 Appyabo, 25-1 others.

1.30 SCARLET FLAME CLASSIFIED CLAIMING STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,078: 1m) (9)

201 (8) -441 ULTRA CALM 16 (B) P Haslam 9-3 — P Goode (7) 48
202 (8) 30-0 RISKY WAY 14 (G) B Rothwell 9-1 — L Charnock 45
203 (7) 6-31 CYRO 17 (C,S) D Nicholls 8-12 — R Cochrane [illegible]
204 (4) 0-32 STATE WIND 15 (V) N Littmoden 8-11 — T G McLaughlin 56
205 (3) 0-01 ALANA'S CAVALIER 14 (B,CD) R Hollinshead 8-9 — P M Quinn (7) 63
206 (5) 00-0 EMINENT BLAZE 23 D Nicholls 8-7 — F Norton 18
207 (2) 455- LADY PEPPIATT 147 (C) J S Moore 8-6 — S Drowne 56
208 (1) 6-44 LAKE MEHRA 18 (V) M Tompkins 8-3 — G Bardwell 38
209 (9) 560- HABIBI 34 (G) Mrs N Macauley 7-13 — A Polli (3) 49

3-1 Ultra Calm, 7-2 Cyro, 5-1 Alana's Cavalier, 7-1 State Wind, Lady Peppiatt, 8-1 Risky Way, Lake Mehra, 14-1 others.

2.00 CHAMPAGNE GOLD FILLIES HANDICAP
(£2,788: 1m) (13)

301 (7) 61-0 YANOMAMI 21 J Berry 4-9-10 — G Carter 71
302 (1) 6-21 MONCHAHRA 12 (D) J Spearing 4-9-8 — Dane O'Neill 44
303 (13) 00-0 THE WILD WIDOW 14 H Collingridge 5-9-8 — J Tate 81
304 (9) 036- CHINAIDER 112 (C,F,G) D Nicholls 4-9-8 — R Cochrane 76
305 (3) 00-1 MISS DANGEROUS 20 (S) M Quinn 4-9-7 — F Norton [illegible]
306 (12) 60-0 KUSTOM KIT KATE 14 (S) S Bowring 4-9-2 — C Teague (3) 79
307 (2) 00-2 MAY TAI 21 D Barker 4-9-0 — A Clark 78
308 (5) 0-23 MISS ALL ALONE 10 (B) J Glover 4-8-12 — T Sprake 75
309 (11) 034- CHINABERRY 30 M Brittain 6-8-10 — D Mernagh (5) 55
310 (10) 600- STARLINER 30 M Brittain 4-8-0 — G Bardwell 80
311 (6) 00-5 LADY OF GUADALOPE 21 D Cosgrove 4-7-13 — P Fessey —
312 (4) 050- SERRATE 256 R Marvin 5-7-12 — S Righton (7) 59
313 (8) 0-05 OXBANE 14 Mrs S Lamyman 5-7-10 — J Quinn 61

4-1 Miss All Alone, 9-2 Miss Dangerous, 11-2 Mai Tai, 8-1 Chinaider, Chinaberry, 10-1 Yanomami, Monchahra, The Wild Widow, 12-1 others.

2.30 TOTE HANDICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£7,035: 6f) (16)

401 (11) 8-12 JIBEREEN 12 (CD,G,S) P Howling 7-10-1 — S Whitworth 78
402 (12) -040 BEST QUEST 7 (V,G) K Burke 4-9-8 — D Sweeney 91
403 (1) -311 THEATRE MAGIC 7 (CD) D Shaw 6-9-8 (6ex) — N Pollard (3) 86
404 (7) 5-23 MALLIA 7 (B,CD,F,G,S) T Barron 6-9-6 — D Pears 80
405 (6) 23-0 OCKER 7 (D,F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-5 — R Price 94
406 (3) 2-00 AL JAZ 12 (CD,S) Miss G Kelleway 9-9-1 — P Fredericks (7) 81
407 (10) 440- KING UNO 86 (D,F,G,S) E Alston 5-9-0 — C Lowther 87
408 (8) 00-2 YOUNG BIGWIG 19 (S) D Chapman 5-8-13 — A Culhane [illegible]
409 (15) 0-00 GRAND CHAPEAU 7 (D,G) D Nicholls 7-8-10 — R Cochrane 91
410 (4) -156 FIRST FRAME 7 (B,C) D Shaw 4-8-10 — R Winston (3) 85
411 (13) -320 KOSEVO 7 (V,C) D Shaw 5-8-5 — T Sprake 85
412 (14) 3102 INTIAASH 7 (CD,F,S) D Haydn Jones 7-8-5 — P Fessey 81
413 (16) 30-0 MISS BANANAS 16 C Kellett 4-8-2 — N Carlisle 92
414 (2) 41-3 DAHLIDYA 21 (CD) M Polglase 4-8-0 — Martin Dwyer 81
415 (5) -211 BAPTISMAL ROCK 8 (D) A Newcombe 5-7-12 (6ex) — J Bramhill 88
416 (9) 00-1 LEDFRIC 7 (C) M Polglase 4-7-10 (6ex) — A Polli (3) 92

7-2 Baptismal Rock, 7-1 Mallia, 8-1 Dahlidya, Ocker, 9-1 Ledfric, 10-1 Theatre Magic, Intiaash, 14-1 Young Bigwig, 16-1 others.

3.00 SILVER ICE SELLING STAKES (£1,889: 6f) (15)

501 (4) 1-43 ELTON LEDGER 10 (V,BF,CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 10-9-12 — R Price 76
502 (11) 000- ABOVE BOARD 133 R Marvin 4-9-7 — S D Williams 31
503 (8) 008- ADRENALIN 40 (CD) T Clement 4-9-7 — J Stubbed (7) 49
504 (10) 5545 AWESOME VENTURE 7 (C) M Chapman 9-9-7 — S Righton (7) 65
505 (9) 05-4 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 7 (CD) R Hollinshead 8-9-7 — P M Quinn (7) 80
506 (1) 00-0 FRENCH GRIT 17 (D,F) D Barker 7-9-7 — A Clark 62
507 (5) 43-4 GARNOCK VALLEY 19 (D,F,G,S) J Berry 8-9-7 — G Carter 83
508 (15) 10-2 ICE AGE 12 (B,CD,F) R Williams 5-9-7 — J Quinn 78
509 (3) 6-44 MOST RESPECTFUL 7 (CD,G) N Tinkler 6-9-7 — Kim Tinkler 88
510 (2) 620- NO ANIMOSITY 10J (B,D,G) W Kemp 6-9-7 — R Cochrane —
511 (12) 45-0 RENNYHOLME 16 K Ryan 8-9-7 — P Fessey 53
512 (7) -600 WILD CITY 7 (V) R Marvin 5-9-7 — T G McLaughlin 43
513 (13) 05-0 STRAT'S QUEST 23 (V,S) D Arbuthnot 5-9-2 — S Whitworth [illegible]
514 (6) 000- STRAVSEA 121 B Baugh 4-9-2 — R Lappin 75
515 (14) 044- ZOLA POWER 27 (B) B Pearce 3-8-0 — A Polli (3) 70

11-4 Elton Ledger, 4-1 Ice Age, 7-1 Garnock Valley, Most Respectful, 8-1 Bold Aristocrat, 12-1 Awesome Venture, 14-1 No Animosity, Stravsea, Zola Power, 20-1 others.

3.30 BLUE VELVET HANDICAP (£2,853: 1m 3f) (14)

601 (2) 60-4 DICK TURPIN 16 B Smart 5-10-0 — P Dobbs (7) 87
602 (4) 0-23 KING PRIAM 6 (B,G) M Polglase 4-10-0 — R Price 78
603 (11) 62-6 PICKENS 14 (CD,F) Enrico Incisa 7-10-0 — Kim Tinkler 87
604 (12) 3211 SUCH BOLDNESS 4 (G) Miss G Kelleway 9-9-13 (6ex) — P Fredericks (7) 63
605 (13) 00-1 POKER SCHOOL 10 (CD) M Bosley 5-9-11 — D Sweeney 49
606 (6) 0-00 JULES JEWEL 7 (C,S) M Chapman 4-9-3 — S Righton (7) [illegible]
607 (5) 54-5 ALDWYCH ARROW 17 (S) M A Buckley 4-9-1 — A Culhane 80
608 (1) 500- INNER LIGHT 38J (B) B Pearce 4-9-0 — Martin Dwyer 61
609 (14) 333- REPTON 34 (B,BF,S) Mrs A Swinbank 4-8-9 — N Day 67
610 (10) -003 UNITUS 10 (G) M Chapman 6-8-6 — T Sprake 77
611 (7) 230/ FAIRFIELDS PRINCE 49J S M Moore 7-8-3 — J Quinn —
612 (8) -343 EVEZIO RUFO 12 (V,CD) N Littmoden 7-8-2 — R Thomas (7) 75
613 (3) 00-5 AMBIDEXTROUS 10 (D,F,G) E Alston 7-7-13 — L Charnock 89
614 (7) 3-56 PORTITE SOPHIE 5 (CD) M Brittain 8-7-12 — D Mernagh (5) 77

4-1 Such Boldness, 9-2 King Priam, 7-1 Poker School, 8-1 Dick Turpin, Pickens, 10-1 Fairfields Prince, 12-1 Repton, Unitus, Evezio Rufo, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J S Moore, 8 winners from 14 runners, 21.4%; P Haslam, 22 from 120, 18.3%; T Barron, 22 from 137, 16.1%; P Howling, 9 from 58, 15.5%; J Glover, 15 from 95, 15.8%.

JOCKEYS: N Day, 8 winners from 31 rides, 25.8%; N Pollard, 6 from 25, 24.0%; P Fredericks, 3 from 20, 15.0%; R Cochrane, 20 from 135, 14.8%; Sweeney, 17 from 129, 13.2%.

Cyfor Malta to return on Saturday

CYFOR MALTA, winner of the Murphy's Gold Cup at Cheltenham in November on his only start this season, is to return to the course on Saturday for either the Pillar Chase or the Ladbroke Handicap Chase.

Martin Pipe, his trainer, said: "Cyfor Malta is fine and he will be entered in the two Cheltenham races. If I knew which one he would run in I would not have made entries in both races for him."

Deano's Beeno, impressive winner of Saturday's Premier Long Distance Hurdle at Haydock, is likely to now go straight to Cheltenham for the Stayers' Hurdle.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Saturday: London Towers 79 Greater London Leopards 83; Leicester Riders 76 Newcastle Eagles 94; Worthing Bears 107 Sheffield Sharks 133; Derby Storm 107 Birmingham Bullets 94. **Yesterday:** Edinburgh Rocks 72 Thames Valley Tigers 69.

	P	W	L	Pts
Sheffield Sharks	21	20	1	40
Manchester Giants	21	18	3	36
Derby Storm	20	13	7	26
Thames Valley Tigers	22	13	9	26
Birmingham Bullets	21	12	9	24
Newcastle Eagles	21	12	9	24
London Towers	20	11	9	22
Greater London	19	9	10	18
Leicester Riders	21	7	14	14
Edinburgh Rocks	18	5	13	10
Milton Keynes Lions	18	4	14	8
Chester Jets	20	4	16	8
Worthing Bears	20	3	17	6

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Cardiff P 90 Solent 100; Coventry 81 Oxford 78; Plymouth 88 Westminster 65; Solihull 80 Mid Sussex 84; Stevenage 73 London T 85; Teesside 128 Cardiff C 110. **Second division:** Flintshire 70 Manchester 60; Slough 67 Portsmouth 44; Taunton 93 Chessington 66. **Women: First division:** Doncaster 61 NW London 75; Ipswich 63 Sheffield 80; Nottingham 68 Leicester 41; Spelthorne 63 Northampton 64. **Second division:** Cardiff C 74 Chelmsford 48; Manchester 61 Solent 54; Tyneside 72 Plymouth 92.

BOWLS

HOPTON-ON-SEA, Norfolk: World indoor championships: Singles: Quarter-finals: A Marshall (Scot) bt M McMahon (Aus) 7-2, 7-3, 2-7, 6-7, 7-1. **Semi-finals:** Marshall bt D Holt (Eng) 6-7, 7-0, 5-7, 7-4, 7-3; D Gourlay (Scot) bt S Rees (Wales) 7-1, 2-7, 7-4, 7-2. **Final:** Marshall bt Gourlay 7-6, 7-2, 7-0.

BOXING

GRUNDY PARK LC, Cheshunt: Professional show: Cruiserweight (8rnds): F Mohammed (Kilburn) bt S Miller (Doncaster) rsc 2nd. **Middleweight** (8rnds): J Matthews (Hackney) bt M Dawson (Burton-on-Trent) rsc 1st. **Light-middleweight** (8rnds): G Richards (Birmingham) bt S Fearon (Forest Hill) pts. **Lightweight** (6rnds): S Murray (Hadow) bt M Smith (Swansea) rsc 1st.

CRESTA RUN

COPPA D'ITALIA: 1, A Guggeri (It) 2min 27.79sec; 2, A Barclay (GB) 2:29.33; 3, C Teodorpl (Ger) 2:30.90; 4, U Burgerstein (Switz) 2:31.56; 5, Count L Marenzi (US) 2:31.60; 6, F Burkard (Switz) 2:31.92.

KNAPP CUP: 1, Lord Wrottesley (GB) 2min 33.10sec; 2, J Sunley (GB) 2:34.16; 3, Count L Marenzi (US) 2:35.44; 4, G Pitsch (Switz) 2:38.58; 5, P Dietheim (Switz) 2:39.76; 6, R Kuhn (Switz) 2:40.69.

CRICKET

Triangular Series

Australia v Sri Lanka

ADELAIDE (Sri Lanka won toss): Australia beat Sri Lanka by 80 runs

AUSTRALIA

†A C Gilchrist c Muralitharan b Wickramasinghe	41
M E Waugh c Chandana b Muralitharan	57
B P Julian b Chandana	21
G S Blewett c Kaluwitharana b Jayasuriya	40
D S Lehmann c Muralitharan b Chandana	40
D R Martyn not out	33
S G Law run out	8
S Lee b Vaas	20
*S K Warne c Tillekeratne b Vaas	0
A C Dale b Jayasuriya	0
G D McGrath c Mahanama b Vaas	2
Extras (lb 2, w 3, nb 3)	8
Total (50 overs)	270

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-86, 2-116, 3-135, 4-203, 5-208, 6-223, 7-258, 8-259, 9-261.

BOWLING: Vaas 10-0-63-3; Wickramasinghe 7-0-45-1; Muralitharan 10-0-51-1; Jayasuriya 10-0-48-2; Chandana 10-0-44-2; Jayawardene 3-0-17-0.

SRI LANKA

S T Jayasuriya c Julian b McGrath	12
†R S Kaluwitharana Gilchrist b McGrath	9
M S Atapattu c Warne b McGrath	0
H P Tillekeratne c Warne b McGrath	10
D P M D Jayawardene c Lee b Dale	9
*A Ranatunga c Julian b McGrath	0
R S Mahanama b Blewett	55
U D U Chandana lbw b Lee	38
W P U J C Vaas c Gilchrist b Lee	0
G P Wickramasinghe not out	21
M Muralitharan b Blewett	11
Extras (lb 3, w 4, nb 18)	25
Total (41.4 overs)	190

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-27, 3-30, 4-40, 5-40, 6-53, 7-143, 8-143, 9-177.

BOWLING: McGrath 10-0-40-5; Dale 10-2-31-1; Julian 5-0-37-0; Warne 9-0-53-0; Lee 5-0-20-2; Blewett 1.4-0-6-2.

Umpires: S J Davis and S J A Taufel

One-day international

South Africa v West Indies

EAST LONDON (South Africa won toss): West Indies beat South Africa by 43 runs

WEST INDIES

P A Wallace c Boje b Pollock	0
S Chanderpaul b Pollock	150
N A M McLean c Rindel b Pollock	0
*B C Lara c Rhodes b Pollock	3
C L Hooper c Pollock b Klusener	108
K L T Arthurton run out	0
K T Semple b Pollock	1
†R D Jacobs run out	8
N C McGarrell not out	6
C E L Ambrose c Cullinan b Pollock	2
R D King not out	1
Extras (w 10, nb 3)	13
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	292

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-5, 3-48, 4-272, 5-273, 6-275, 7-276, 8-288, 9-290.

BOWLING: Pollock 10-2-35-6; Kallis 6-0-51-0; Williams 8-0-55-0; Klusener 10-1-41-1; Boje 8-0-45-0; Rindel 3-0-28-0; Cronje 5-0-37-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

G Kirsten c Wallace b King	3
M J R Rindel c McGarrell b Ambrose	2
D J Cullinan c Arthurton b King	5
J H Kallis c Semple b Hooper	51
J N Rhodes c McGarrell b King	21
*W J Cronje b Hooper	34
S M Pollock run out	6
†M V Boucher c Ambrose b Arthurton	51
L Klusener run out	46
N Boje run out	7
H S Williams not out	1
Extras (lb 5, w 8, nb 8)	21
Total (46.5 overs)	249

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-8, 3-18, 4-78, 5-116, 6-123, 7-159, 8-223, 9-243.

BOWLING: Ambrose 6-1-21-1; King 10-2-40-3; McLean 7.5-0-62-0; Hooper 10-0-50-2; McGarrell 10-0-50-0; Arthurton 3-0-21-1.

BOWLING: Matambanadzo 6-0-27-0; Pswarayi 6-1-34-2; Evans 4-0-25-0; G W Flower 7-2-13-0; Strang 8-0-27-3; Campbell 10-2-19-3; Goodwin 3-0-9-1.

MASHONALAND

G W Flower b Betts	4
C B Wishart lbw b Lewry	0
M W Goodwin run out	31
*A Flower c Read b Lewry	3
†A D R Campbell c Read b Harmison	9
G J Rennie c Windows b Swann	4
C N Evans b Harmison	1
T N Madondo run out	3
P A Strang c Betts b Swann	8
E Z Matambanadzo c and b Cosker	4
B W S Pswarayi not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 1, w 8, nb 6)	19
Total (38.1 overs)	86

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-9, 3-24, 4-52, 5-63, 6-68, 7-70, 8-78, 9-86.

BOWLING: Lewry 8-0-20-2; Betts 8-2-17-1; Harmison 7-0-13-2; Maddy 3-0-16-0; Swann 7.1-1-11-2; Cosker 3-0-4-1.

Umpires: I D Robinson and G R Evans

Auckland Emerging Players v England Under-19

AUCKLAND (first day of three): England, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 143 runs behind Auckland Emerging Players

AUCKLAND: First innings

T McIntosh b Bridge	25
R Scragg lbw b Logan	1
J Pawley lbw b Tucker	24
S Lynch c Carberry b Heywood	19
R King c Heywood b Bridge	58
R Young lbw b Bridge	41

Tour matches

Mashonaland v England A

SCHOOLS SPORT

ATHLETICS: Bishop Auckland: Durham cross-country championships: Boys (2.8 miles): 1, B Stevenson (Darlington) 15min 26sec; 2, D Bradley (Darlington) 15:47; 3, S Turner (South West Durham) 16:19. **Teams:** Durham Central 76pts. **Girls** (1.8 miles): 1, R Hoddy (Durham Central) 11:16; 2, C Davies (Darlington) 11:25; 3, D Bellerby (Durham Central) 13:11. **Teams:** Durham Central 50. **Parliament Hill Fields: London cross-country championships: Boys:** 1, G Hows (Woolwich Polytechnic) 23min 11sec; 2, J Powell (Dulwich College) 23:58; 3, A Adu-boakye (Colfe's School) 24:25. **Teams:** 1, Emanuel School 70pts; 2, UCS 71; 3, London Oratory 72. **Girls:** 1, K Storer (Latymer Upper) 13:09; 2, D Hearn (Charles Edward Brooke) 13:29; 3, H Criba (City of Westminster College) 14:23. **Teams:** 1, Lycée Français 31pts; 2, Thomas Talis 36; 3, Latymer Upper 39. **Alnwick: Northumberland cross-country championships: Boys** (7.8km): 1, N McCormick (Tynedale) 25min 48sec; 2, A Wright (North Northumberland) 26:46; 3, J Philmore (Tynedale) 27:27. **Girls** (3.9km): 1, J Mooney (North Tyneside) 15:25; 2, C Wilson (East Northumberland) 15:42; 3, S Ellison (East Northumberland) 15:52.

FOOTBALL: Premier League Trophy: Under-16: West Yorkshire 3 Cheshire 3, Lancashire 0 Greater Manchester 0. **Northern Merit League:** Blackburn 0 Bolton 6. **Cheshire Cup: Second round:** Macclesfield 2 Stockport 2. **Yorkshire Trophy:** Barnsley 1 Middlesbrough 1, Calderdale 0 York 5. **West Midlands League:** Coventry 0 Nuneaton 3.

1:36.77; 5, S Amiez (Fr) 1:36.81; 6, K Palander (Fin) 1:36.82; 7, D Grubelnik (Slovenia) 1:36.83; 8, P Bourgeat (Fr) 1:36.86; 9, K A Aamodt (Nor) 1:37.26; 10, M Nana (It) 1:37.40. **Leading overall slalom positions:** 1, Stangassinger 396pts; 2, Kosir 351; 3, Bourgeat 334; 4, B Raich (Austria) 260; 5, F C Jagge (Nor) 260; 6, S Amiez (Fr) 251. **Downhill:** 1, H Knauss (Austria) 1:54.18; 2, P Rzehak (Austria) 1:54.33; 3, W Franz (Austria) 1:54.35; 4, L Kjus (Nor) 1:54.36; 5, K Ghedina (It) 1:54.95; 6, A Schifferer (Austria) 1:55.06; 7, K A Aamodt (Nor) 1:55.09; 8, H Maier (Austria) 1:55.16; 9, P Jaerbyn (Swe) 1:56.22; 10, J Strobl (Austria) 1:55.39. **Leading overall downhill positions:** 1, Kjus 530pts; 2, Franz 350; 3, Maier 292; 4, Knauss 283; 5, Ghedina 280; 6, Aamodt 242. **Combined event:** 1, K A Aamodt (Nor) 3min 32.35sec; 2, L Kjus (Nor) 3:33.05; 3, P Accola (Switz) 3:37.20; 4, W Franz (Austria) 3:38.05; 5, D Cuche (Switz) 3:40.02; 6, J Gruenenfelder (Switz) 3:40.37. **Leading overall combined positions:** 1, Kjus 180pts; 2, Aamodt 180; 3, Franz 100; 4, Cuche 81; 5, M Hermann (Switz) 64. **Leading overall World Cup positions:** 1, Kjus 1,089pts; 2, Aamodt 1,054; 3, Maier 1,053; 4, S Eberharter (Austria) 657; 5, Knauss 629; 6, C Mayer (Austria) 565.

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy: Women's World Cup: Super-G: 1, R Cavagnoud (Fr) 1min 20.25sec; 2, S Berthod (Switz) 1:21.28; 3, M Dorfmeister (Austria) 1:21.70; 4, K Putzer (It) 1:22.03; 5, J Kostelic (Cro) 1:22.19; 6, M Turgeon (Can) 1:22.25. **Leading overall Super-G positions:** 1, A Meissnitzer (Austria) 408pts; 2, M Ertl (Ger) 340; 3, Cavagnoud 335. **Giant slalom:** 1, Meissnitzer 2min 26.20sec; 2, Ertl 2:26.83; 3, A

CYCLING

ICE HOCKEY

RUGBY LEAGUE

GOLF

SKIING

SNOOKER

SQUASH

ATHLETICS

Track and field

KARLSRUHE, Germany: Indoor meeting: Winners: Men: 60m: 1, M Blume (Ger) 6.54sec; 2, L Christie (GB) 6.57. **200m:** 1, C Chevalle (Fr) 21.22; 2, D Campbell (GB) 21.23. **800m:** B Koranyi (Hun) 1min 47.30sec. **1,500m:** J Redolat (Sp) 3:38.12.

Parry (Swansea, guest) 19:52; 2, W Holden (Lewes) 21:13; 3, E Satterley (Phoenix) 22:02. **Teams:** 1, Arena 80 23pts; 2, Hailsham 60; 3, Brighton and Hove 61.

RICHMOND PARK: Inter-club 6 miles: 1, R Jackman (Metropolitan Police) 44min 56sec; 2, A Goold (Bank of England) 45:14; 3, J Jobson (Bank of England) 45:22.

Cross country

RUISLIP WOODS: Middlesex veterans championships (5.5 miles): **Men:** 1, C Finill (Harrow) 34min 8sec; 2, J Quirke (London Irish) 34:59; 3, S Kerr (London Irish) 35:22. **Over-50:** D Willoughby (Queen's Park Harriers) 35:19; 2, P Murphy (London Irish) 35:56; 3, J Shirley (Barnet) 39:26. **Over-60:** 1, M Miller (Hillingdon) 45:05; 2, A Randall (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 45:39; 3, C Wroth (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 45:55. **Teams:** 1, London Irish 22pts; 2, Harrow 31; 3, Hillingdon 59. **Women:** 1, F Kennedy (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 40:07; 2, J Morgan (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 40:49; 3, K Armstrong (Shaftesbury) 41:03. **Over-45:** 1, C Fogarty (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 46:49; 2, H Walker (Serpentine) 46:09; 3, J Farmer (Serpentine) 47:18. **Over-55:** King (Ealing, Southall and Middlesex) 1:00:08; 2, B Robson (Metros) 1:00:23; 3, A Leigh (Metros) 1:02:23. **Teams:** 1, Ealing, Southall and Middlesex 12; Serpentine 57; 3, Metros 64.

STANMER PARK, Brighton: Sussex League (6 miles): **Men:** 1, A Robinson (Horsham Blue Star) 32min 18sec; 2, N Boniface (Horsham Blue Star) 33:23; 3, P Stacey (Brighton and Hove) 33:31. **Women:** 1, H

ley 102; 3, Dulwich Runners 103. **Women:** 1, A Chapman (Highgate) 1:36:04; 2, J Laws (Muswell Hill) 1:39:29; 3, G O'Connor (Road Runners Club) 1:40:16. **Teams:** Serpentine 58pts. **Over-50:** S Lambert (Serpentine) 1:57:32.

BOSCOMBE: Poole Runners 5km: 1, P Drake (Poole Runners) 15min 32sec; 2, G Eagle (Westbury) 15:42; 3, D Hurdwell (Bournemouth) 15:49. **Veterans:** J Boyes (Bournemouth) 16:27. **Women:** 1, C Doe (Poole Runners) 19:30; 2, T Lindop (Poole Runners) 21:01; 3, S Tipping (Poole Runners) 22:01.

GATESHEAD: Open 5km: 1, C Wright (Mandale) 17min 41sec; 2, S Armstrong (Sunderland) 18:29; 3, S Bowes (Unattached) 18:23. **Women:** N Brown (Chester-le-Street) 17:55.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Prom 5 miles: 1, M Jenkins (Newport) 24min 44sec; 2, D Simmons (Cornwall) 25:11; 3, R Forsbrook (Cheltenham) 25:13. **Veterans:** P Glenny (Great Western Runners) 26:38. **Over 50:** L Davis (Severn) 28:00. **Over 60:** C Lloyd (Smithstown) 37:59. **Women:** 1, E Meares (Stroud) 29:05; 2, M Gay (Bristol) 29:24; 3, S Bourne (unattached) 32:30.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Off-p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Austria								
Kitzbühel	13	77	Fair	Worn	Varied	Sun	-1	14/1
Obergurgl	40	180	Hard	Hard	Varied	Sun	-3	14/1
Söll	20	70	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-5	14/1
Canada								
Lake Louise	100	132	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-12	22/1
France								
Alpe d'Huez	60	150	Fair	Hard	Varied	Sun	5	13/1
Argentière	50	130	Good	Closed	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
Avoriaz	40	100	Hard	Hard	Heavy	Fine	2	14/1
Flaine	65	205	Fair	Hard	Packed	Sun	-2	14/1
La Clusaz	65	110	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
La Plagne	65	150	Fair	Worn	Varied	Sun	-1	14/1
La Tania	66	106	Hard	Icy	Varied	Sun	-2	14/1
Les Arcs	62	178	Hard	Icy	Varied	Sun	-3	14/1
Megève	35	120	Hard	Worn	Varied	Fine	-5	14/1
Méribel	40	120	Fair	Worn	Varied	Sun	-2	14/1
Tignes	61	160	Good	Artificial	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
Val Thorens	70	130	Good	Artificial	Varied	Sun	-8	14/1
Val d'Isère	63	135	Fair	Artificial	Varied	Sun	-1	14/1
Valmorel	40	128	Hard	Hard	Varied	Sun	-2	14/1
Italy								
Cervinia	30	160	Fair	Hard	Varied	Sun	-2	14/1
Livigno	34	116	Fair	Icy	Crusty	[illegible]	-4	13/1
Norway								
Geilo	70	70	Good	Open	Varied	[illegible]	-6	17/1
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	20	115	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun	-5	14/1
Davos	30	130	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
Grindelwald	25	100	Fair	Icy	Varied	Sun	0	14/1
Klosters	35	130	Good	Icy	Varied	Sun	-2	14/1
St Moritz	30	80	Fair	Some	Varied	Sun	-8	13/1
Verbier	20	175	Fair	Icy	Varied	Sun	-5	14/1
Wengen	10	65	Fair	Icy	Varied	Sun	-3	14/1
United States								
Aspen	112	140	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	24/1
Vail	155	155	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-5	22/1

L = lower slopes; U = upper slopes

http://www.skiclub.co.uk

Radcliffe in camera: Anita Weyermann, right, shadows Paula Radcliffe, of Great Britain, in the Coca-Cola cross-country international in front of the Parliament Buildings in Belfast on Saturday. The Swiss eventually won. Report, page 40

HOCKEY

RUGBY UNION

Allied Dunbar Premiership

First division

Bedford 17 Bath 30

Bedford: Tries: Elliott, Murdoch, Zaltzman. Con: Howard. Bath: Tries: Adebayo.

Moseley 22 Blackheath 16

Moseley: Tries: Cook, Patten, Simpson. Cons: Smart 2. Pen: Smart. Blackheath: Try: D Fitzgerald. Con: Amor. Pens: Amor 3.

Rotherham 25 Leeds 10

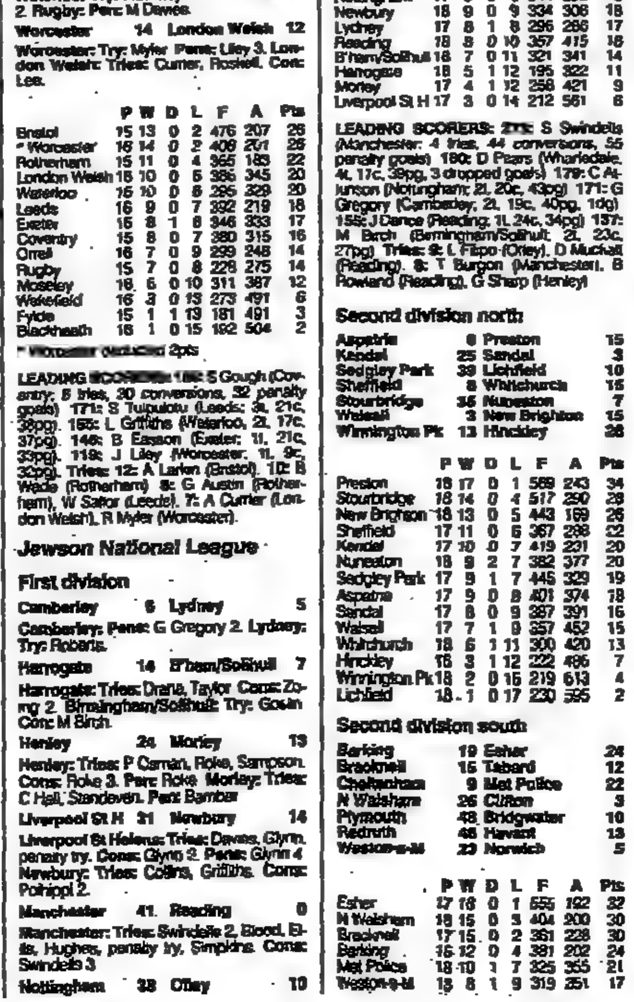
Rotherham: Tries: Wade 3, Lax, Parr

Nottingham: Tries: C Atkinson, Bygrave, Knight, Spencer. Cons: C Atkinson 3. Pens: C Atkinson 3. Dropped goal: Jack. Otley: Tries: Hall, Hartley.

Wharfedale 18 Rosslyn Park 3

Wharfedale: Try: Lawn. Con: Pears. Pens: Pears 4. Rosslyn Park: Pen: A Maddock.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norwich	17	8	0	9	249	257	16
Tabard	18	6	1	11	297	333	13
Redruth	17	6	1	10	321	386	13
Plymouth	18	6	1	11	330	405	13
Bridgwater	17	4	2	11	293	398	10
Clifton	16	4	1	11	232	302	9
Cheltenham	17	4	0	13	231	399	8
Havant	18	3	0	15	214	504	6



ATHLETICS

Radcliffe is forced to play second fiddle

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

ANITA WEYERMANN was not riding a trick cycle while juggling three sticks as she celebrated her victory over Paula Radcliffe, of Great Britain, in the Coca-Cola International cross-country in Belfast on Saturday, but it may have been merely the absence of props that stopped her. The multitalented Weyermann, from Switzerland, can, when the mood strikes, demonstrate the basic skills of a circus entertainer as well as ski downhill, fast. And, for good measure, she can pull from her cabinet a 1,500 metres medal from the previous world championships.

Weyermann developed her one-wheel, cycling-juggling technique some years ago to improve her balance for skiing. Then, having skied competitively, in International Ski Federation (FIS) events, she revealed herself as an athlete.

In 1994, she won the world junior 1,500 metres title, which convinced her to put track before piste. "I thought I had better make athletics my first sport," she said.

Two years later, Weyermann gained a second junior world title, this time at 3,000 metres, and her victory over Radcliffe at cross-country represents an extension of the path of progress that she has taken in the past two years to senior world and European 1,500 metres bronze medals. To judge by her form at the weekend, Weyermann, 21, has every chance of taking her first senior international gold at the world cross-country championships in March.

Radcliffe will not come up against Weyermann in the world championships. Weyermann has opted for the short-course race, over four kilometres, while Radcliffe has chosen the longer event, over eight kilometres. Finishing second, Radcliffe was well clear of women she will line up against in the world championships, although not notably, Sonia O'Sullivan, who is training in Australia. Radcliffe, runner-up in the past two world championships, is uncertain whether O'Sullivan will be competing against her in a few weeks. O'Sullivan won the long and short-course titles in Marrakech last year and Radcliffe said: "She is only going to defend one, from what I have heard, but you never know."

Radcliffe has lost all three of her races since winning the European title last month, the result of a cold and chest infection. However, after her last pre-world championship race, in Tourcoing, France, this Saturday, she plans four weeks altitude training before returning to Belfast for the world championships.

"I am pleased with that today," Radcliffe said, bearing in mind that the distance over the Stormont Estate course, 4,800 metres, was closer to the one that Weyermann will face at the world championships at Barnett Park. Weymermann made her move on the third lap to win by 70 metres.

Radcliffe was 100 metres clear of Colleen de Reuck, from South Africa, who was third. Birhan Dagne, the first African refugee to run for England, was seventh. Dagne was making her debut for England four years after competing for Ethiopia at the world championships in Durham, at which she broke camp to seek asylum.

The African hold on the men's title extended to an eighth year, as Hendrik Ramaala came from behind on the final lap to outsprint Laban Chege, from Kenya, and Carsten Jorgensen, from Denmark. When Ramaala, from South Africa, returns for the world championships, he will be happy with nothing less than ending Kenya's run of individual titles.

Devon college has cream of the crop

By David Powell

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

EACH success story has its small imperfection, be it the sloppy goal conceded before the cup-final triumph, the double faults served in the straight-sets victory, the missed putts on the way to golfing glory. How often do you hear a team manager say, when all squad members are fit and available, that this apparent state of perfection has served only to create a selection headache?

At South Dartmoor Community College, success has created its own flaw. The headache, like the ones suffered by team managers, is one that the college is pleased to have, however. As a consequence of its specialist sports college status, South Dartmoor has so many pupils in year seven who want to play team sport that other schools cannot meet the demand for competition.

"Such is the interest that we are able to field four teams in netball, football and rugby and it is not easy to find fixtures for four teams," Steve Dinnie, director of PE and sport at South Dartmoor, said, "but it is a nice problem to have." A small imperfection of the college's own making. How did it happen?

In 1996, South Dartmoor launched an initiative to become one of the first six specialist sports colleges under a Government plan to raise standards. "They will be regional focal points for excellence in physical education and community sport, extending links between families of schools, sports bodies and communities," the mission statement read.

Establishments seeking sports college status must raise £100,000 in sponsorship. For successful applicants, the sum is matched by the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE). A local business in Ashburton, Devon, where the college stands, offered land and property to the value of £90,000. A further £10,000 came from other local backers and South Dartmoor began to sense a metamorphosis.

There is more to it, though, for would-be sports colleges than raising money and building facilities. "They must demonstrate how they will set themselves up as the hub of sporting and physical education activity in their community," Sara Wright, of Youth Sport Trust, the registered charity appointed to liaise with schools, said. "The DfEE is trying to set up these satellites, which can link with primary schools and other secondary schools and can develop programmes for the community."

South Dartmoor is a shining example, best illustrated by its netball programme. When Karen Dinnie arrived as the college netball coach, paid for by sports college funding, South Dartmoor had no county or area representative players and no local club. Now Ashmoor Netball Club, which she started, holds the Plymouth indoor league title and five of the first-team squad are college students.

All five are county junior players. It is a model of how school-to-club links work, providing senior and junior netball, and why Dinnie was presented with the Devon coach-of-the-year award last month.

South Dartmoor is also breaking through in other sports. "From being previously a low-key, non-competitive gymnastics club, we were runners-up in the national schools under-13 floor and vault championships in our first year as a sports college," Steve Dinnie said. "We are national champions in girls' tug-of-war and Alan Miller is our first sporting international at the college for 25 years." Miller was selected for England Schools under-16 rugby.

"Sports college status has given us much more funding for sport and PE," Steve Dinnie added. "We cater for all abilities, from special needs to elite. When those students start here at year seven, they are already at a high standard, which is why we run four teams at year seven."

Under South Dartmoor's conversion to a sports college, its department of PE has grown from a staff of five to 11. New facilities are being built and improved equipment has been bought, but the bulk of funding has gone towards teaching expertise. "We have had the money for teachers to develop qualifications, including teachers from outside the department," Steve Dinnie said. "The range of sports taught has widened." There is even boxing for girls.

The lick of paint that is sport is not there to conceal an academic damp spot, either. South Dartmoor's latest GCSE results were its best, 54 per cent of students achieving grade C or higher in five subjects. "We work closely with other departments to make sure curriculum work and homework is not adversely affected," Steve Dinnie said.



Karen Dinnie shows her South Dartmoor Community College pupils the route to goal. Photograph: Paul Levie

HOCKEY: LONDON TEAMS VICTORIOUS AGAINST RIVALS FROM ABROAD AND CLOSER TO HOME

Smith powers English win

By Cathy Harris

TWO goals by Jane Smith set up a rare English win against an Australian side when Slough, representing London, won 4-1 to take the title in the inaugural Perth World Cities indoor tournament yesterday.

Despite later losing to Glasgow Western, the Scottish national club champions, the competition had already been won and Andy Halliday, the coach, used the game to give his less experienced players an opportunity against seasoned opponents.

Smith was the top scorer, with 15, and it was her accuracy that inspired her club to victory in the first phase of their indoor campaign. This weekend, Slough hope to regain the national title and take part in the European club championship in February.

One of the unsung heroes of the England outdoor team, Smith is equally at home in midfield or providing another option in attack. A member of the World Cup squad of last year and a silver medal-winner at the Commonwealth Games, Smith usually earns plaudits for her unselfish play in setting up chances for either Tina Cullen or Jane Sixsmith.

Halliday said that his team's learning curve had continued and they had learned valuable lessons. He added: "It's even more satisfying to have beaten an Australian side — the players are just starting to play the style I'm aiming for."

The England Under-21 team, representing Manchester and preparing for the European under-21 championship in Prague this weekend, finished last, but it was their gutsy 2-1 victory over Glasgow yesterday that effectively ended the hopes of the Scots.

Meanwhile, after the withdrawal of Welton from the national indoor play-offs, Harleston Magpies finished unbeaten to clinch promotion to the second division next season.

Southgate break the ice to stay in touch at top

By Sydney Friskin

SOUTHGATE took control in the last ten minutes of their match against Hounslow to record a 4-2 win in the premier division of the National League, which resumed yesterday after the winter break.

Much had gone wrong before the road to victory was discovered. Caught off-guard, Southgate were 2-1 down early in the second half and, apart from hitting a post, they squandered several other scoring opportunities.

The intricate skills of Kwane Browne, the former Trinidad captain, played a key part in Southgate's success. He laid on two of their goals and kept the front line moving. From his back pass, in the seventeenth minute, Kerry gave Southgate the lead, which was neutralised almost on half-time when Nurse converted a short corner for Hounslow.

Three minutes into the second half, Gillmon sprang a surprise put Hounslow ahead, but Southgate eventually retaliated with goals from Simons, Kerry and Woods. Rott, the German forward, figured prominently in most of Southgate's attacks.

Canterbury overcame a spirited challenge at home by Beeston to win 4-1, with Pinnock scoring twice to add to goals by Evennett, from a short corner, and Wicken. Barralet replied for Beeston.

Results and tables 39

Mark Hoskin opened his account for Guildford in the 38th minute, but not before Critchley had scored three goals for Cannock, with Sharpe also chipping in for a 4-1 home victory.

Reading's visit to Bournville ended in a 4-3 victory, after Lose had given them a 2-0 lead within 21 minutes. The advantage was increased to 4-1 through Slay and Pearn, but late goals by Grummitt and Oates reduced the margin.

Grummitt had also scored Bournville's first goal in the 22nd minute. By the end of the day, Canterbury, Cannock, Southgate and Reading retained their positions at the top of the premier division table, although Beeston, who lie in fifth position, have a game in hand.

Barford Tigers took over the leadership of the first division, followed by Surbiton, Doncaster and Havant.

The fifth round of the EHA Men's Cup was completed on Saturday, with Reading defeating Loughborough Students 4-1 to set up a home match against Canterbury on February 28. Reading had a 4-0 lead, with two goals by Pearn and one each by Ashdown, from a short corner, and Collison. Langlands replied for Loughborough, the visitors, a minute before half-time.

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

FA Cup
Fourth round
Oxford Utd v Chelsea (8.0)

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Third round: Altrincham v Burton Albion; Aylesbury v Newport IoW (7.45); Hastings v St Albans (7.45); Havant and Waterlooville v Worcester; Hitchin v Enfield (7.45); Slough v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45); Shepshed D v Emley (7.45); Weston-super-Mare v Raunds T (7.45). Third-round replay: Farnborough v Dagenham and Redbridge (7.45).

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North West Conference: Chester v Carlisle Utd (1.0).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Northampton v Norwich (7.0).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE CUP: Group one: Scarborough v Newcastle (7.0). Group five: Stoke v Stockport (at Newcastle Town, 7.0).

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ruislip Manor v Hillingdon Borough.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE: First division: Clitheroe v Holker Old Boys.

RUGBY UNION

Welsh Challenge Trophy
Pool A
Aberavon v Edinburgh Reivers (7.0)
Pool B
Newport v Glasgow Caledonians (7.0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

WORTHINGTON CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Sunderland v Leicester (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Bournemouth v Preston (7.45); Fulham v Oldham (7.45); Macclesfield v Millwall (7.45). Third division: Peterborough v Hull (7.45).

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Northern section, second round: Rochdale v Stoke (7.45). Northern section, quarter-finals: Hartlepool v Lincoln (7.45); Carlisle v Wigan (7.45).

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Hayes v Dover (7.45); Rushden and Diamonds v Kidderminster (7.45); Yeovil v Forest Green (7.45).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: UniBond League v FA XI (at Stalybridge Celtic, 7.30).

RUGBY UNION

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Richmond v Leicester (8.0).

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool A: Neath v Canada (7.0); Pontypridd v Georgia (7.0). Pool B: Ebbw Vale v Gauteng Falcons (7.0); Llanelli v Romania (7.0).

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge University v British Police (7.15); Royal Navy v Devon (at Rectory, Plymouth, 7.0).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Newcastle Riverkings v Nottingham Panthers (7.15).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

WORTHINGTON CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Tottenham v Wimbledon (8.05).

FA CUP: Fourth round: Sheffield Utd v Cardiff (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Third division: Scarborough v Leyton Orient (7.30).

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Dundee v Rangers (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

CHELTENHAM AND GLOUCESTER CUP: First round, second leg: Orrell (3) v Sale (70) (7.15).

WELSH CHALLENGE TROPHY: Pool B: Bridgend v Glasgow Caledonians (7.15).

CLUB MATCH: Oxford University v Richmond (7.15).

SCHOOLS MATCH: England v Australia (at Bridgwater, 7.05).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Uni-ball Trophy: Quarter-finals: Birmingham Bullets v Manchester Giants (at Aston Villa, 7.30); Derby Storm v Newcastle Eagles (8.0); London Towers v Leicester Riders (7.30); Sheffield Sharks v Chester Jets (7.30). Budweiser League: Greater London Leopards v Edinburgh Rocks (at Brentwood, 7.30).

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Cardiff Devils (7.30).

THURSDAY

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v London Knights (7.0).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Stoke v Manchester City (7.45).

RUGBY LEAGUE

CLUB MATCHES: Wakefield v Sheffield (7.30); Castleford v Gateshead (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Newcastle Eagles v London Towers (7.30).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Blackburn v Tottenham; Coventry v Liverpool; Everton v Nottingham Forest; Middlesbrough v Leicester; Newcastle v Aston Villa; Sheffield Wednesday v Derby; Southampton v Leeds; Wimbledon v West Ham.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Bolton v Norwich; Crewe v Sheffield Utd; Huddersfield v Bristol City; Ipswich v Port Vale; Oxford Utd v Barnsley; Queens Park Rangers v Portsmouth; Stockport v Wolverhampton; Swindon v Bury; Tranmere v Crystal Palace; Watford v Sunderland; West Bromwich v Grimsby. Second division: Blackpool v Macclesfield; Bristol Rovers v Colchester; Chesterfield v Wycombe; Fulham v Northampton; Lincoln v Burnley; Luton v Bournemouth; Millwall v Gillingham; Notts County v Reading; Walsall v Wigan; Wrexham v Preston; York v Oldham. Third division: Barnet v Swansea; Brighton v Peterborough; Cambridge Utd v Carlisle; Cardiff v Brentford; Exeter v Plymouth (11.0); Halifax v Rotherham; Hull v Shrewsbury; Leyton Orient v Darlington; Mansfield v Chester; Rochdale v Hartlepool; Scunthorpe v Scarborough; Southend v Torquay.

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Barrow v Kingstonian; Dover v Leek; Farnborough v Woking; Forest Green v Hednesford; Hereford v Stevenage; Kettering v Doncaster; Kidderminster v Hayes; Morecambe v Yeovil; Northwich v Rushden and Diamonds; Southport v Cheltenham; Welling v Telford.

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE: Aberdeen v Rangers; Dundee Utd v Dunfermline; Hearts v Motherwell; Kilmarnock v Dundee.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division: Airdrie v Hibernian; Greenock Morton v Stranraer; Hamilton v Falkirk; Raith v Clydebank; St Mirren v Ayr. Second division: Arbroath v Clyde; Inverness CT v Forfar; Livingston v Partick; Queen of South v Alloa; Stirling v East Fife. Third division: Brechin v Berwick; Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park; Dumbarton v Ross County; East Stirling v Montrose; Stenhousemuir v Albion.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 2.30 unless stated

EUROPEAN CUP: Final: Ulster v Colomiers (at Lansdowne Road, 2.45).

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Fifth round: Gloucester v Henley (3.0); Leicester v Leeds (3.0); London Scottish v Harlequins (3.0); Northampton v London Irish (2.0); West Hartlepool v Newcastle (3.0).

ALLIED DUNBAR PREMIERSHIP: First division: Bedford v Sale (3.0).

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham/Solihull v Liverpool St Helens; Morley v Camberley (3.0); Otley v Manchester (2.15); Reading v Wharfedale (2.15); Rosslyn Park v Harrogate. Second division north: Hinckley v Sheffield; Lichfield v Kendal; New Brighton v Aspatria (2.15); Nuneaton v Walsall; Preston Grasshoppers v Winnington Park (2.15); Sandal v Stourbridge (2.15); Whitchurch v Sedgley Park. Second division south: Bridgwater v Cheltenham (3.0); Clifton v Plymouth; Esher v North Walsham (3.0); Havant v Barking; Norwich v Redruth (2.15); Tabard v Weston-super-Mare (2.15).

SWALEC CUP: Fifth round: Bonymaen v UWIC; Caerphilly v Bedwas; Cardiff v Abertillery; Cross Keys v Trimsaran; Cwmllynfell v Pontypridd; Hirwaun v Tondu; Llanelli v Ynysybwl; Llanharan v Ystradgynlais; Maesteg v Blackwood; Nantyffyllon v Bridgend; Penygraig v Neath; Pontypool Utd v Ebbw Vale; Swansea v Newport; Tredegar v Rumney; Whitland v Pontypool; Ystrad Rhondda v Aberavon.

TENNENT'S VELVET PREMIERSHIP: First division: Currie v Heriot's FP; Jed-Forest v Glasgow Hawks; Melrose v Boroughmuir; Watsonians v Stirling County; West of Scotland v Hawick. Second division: Edinburgh Accies v Dundee HSFP; Kilmarnock v Gala; Kirkcaldy v Biggar; Musselburgh v Aberdeen GSFP; Selkirk v Kelso.

THE TIMES TROPHY: Final: University College, Cork v Grantable (at Donnybrook, 11.30).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: National indoor championships (at National Indoor Arena, Birmingham)

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Derby Storm v Manchester Giants (7.30); Greater London Leopards v Birmingham Bullets (7.0); Leicester Riders v Milton Keynes Lions (7.0); Sheffield Sharks v Thames Valley Tigers (7.30); Worthing Bears v Chester Jets (8.0).

BOXING: British and Commonwealth heavyweight title: J Francis (Woolwich, holder) v P Reid (Sheffield) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green)

HOCKEY: Women's national indoor championships (at Crystal Palace)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Bracknell Bees v Newcastle Riverkings (6.0); Cardiff Devils v Sheffield Steelers (7.0); Nottingham Panthers v Manchester Storm (7.0).

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Chelsea (4.0); Charlton v Manchester Utd (4.0).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Bradford (1.0).

SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Celtic v St Johnstone (6.05).

RUGBY UNION

TETLEY'S BITTER CUP: Fifth round: Lydney v Saracens (2.15); Richmond v Exeter (3.0); Wasps v Waterloo (1.45).

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division south: Met Police v Bracknell (3.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Third round: Barrow v Dudley Hill (2.0); Batley v Castleford Lock Lane (3.15); Bramley v Leigh MR; Dewsbury v Siddal; Doncaster v Oldham St Annes; Featherstone Rovers v Thornhill (3.30); Hemel Stags v Featherstone Lions (2.15); Hull KR v Wath Brow Hornets; Hunslet v Townville (3.30); Keighley v Rochdale Mayfield; Lancashire Lynx v Askam; Leigh v Norland; Rochdale v Wigan St Judes; Swinton v Moldgreen; Whitehaven v Saddleworth (3.30); Widnes v West Hull; Workington v Skirlaugh (2.0); York v Egremont.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: National indoor championships (at National Indoor Arena, Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Birmingham Bullets v Milton Keynes Lions (at Aston Villa, 6.0); Chester Jets v Derby Storm (5.30); Edinburgh Rocks v Sheffield Sharks (3.0); Manchester Giants v Newcastle Eagles (7.0); Thames Valley Tigers v Worthing Bears (6.0).

HOCKEY: Women's national indoor championships.

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Nottingham Panthers (6.30); London Knights v Cardiff Devils (6.0); Newcastle Riverkings v Manchester Storm (6.30); Sheffield Steelers v Bracknell Bees (6.30).





Queen's Bench Division — Law Report January 25 1999

Deciding whether tenancy exists

Mehta v Royal Bank of Scotland plc and Others

Before Mr Richard Southwell, QC

[Judgment January 14]

In deciding whether a tenancy existed, the three hallmark principles, occupation for a term, at a rent, with exclusive possession, as set out in *Street v Mountford* ([1985] AC 825, 826), were not decisive in circumstances where other factors of equal importance to and in addition to those hallmarks were in existence.

Mr Richard Southwell, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in awarding Mr Jai Mehta £100,000 damages for wrongful eviction.

In October 1993 Mr Mehta had approached Mr John McKerchar of Nolan Associates regarding the rent of a room in the Brompton Hotel at 30/32 Old Brompton Road, on a long term basis, as he was not a visitor but a Londoner.

Mr Mehta was informed that the Royal Bank of Scotland was the mortgagee in possession of the hotel, that Mr G. C. Adams had been appointed receiver of the hotel and was authorised to manage and operate it on behalf of Mr Fatheli Gulam Hussein Ramji, FCA, the chargor, which was in due course to be sold.

Mr Adams had given written instructions for Nolan Associates to act as the management agents for the properties. Mr McKerchar after obtaining consent from the bank entered into an oral agreement with Mr Mehta, that Mr Mehta was to have exclusive possession, on a long term basis of room 418 in the hotel at an agreed monthly rent.

The agreement continued for six months. On May 5, 1994 Mr Mehta was told by Mr Adams and Mr Nolan that completion was to take place on the sale of the hotel, and he was asked leave by the following day; further, if he wanted to occupy his room he would have to sign a new contract. Mr Mehta refused and sought legal advice on the following day. He returned to find that he had been wrongfully evicted.

Mr Mehta in person; Mr Peter Brunner for Mr Ramji.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the three hallmarks were present:

1 Mr Mehta had exclusive possession.

2 There were monthly payments.

3 There was a periodical term.

In addition, reference could be made to these other factors:

4 This was a room in a hotel, although as Mr Mehta pointed out, in a hotel being run in what was still recognisably built as a house.

5 The room was let as a furnished room.

6 Limited services of cleaning and fortnightly bedsheet changing (rightly described as minimal) were provided.

7 It was known to both parties the hotel was in the hands of a receiver and presumably to be sold as a going concern, if possible.

8 It was known to both parties that Mr Mehta wanted long term possession of the room.

9 The agreement was clearly on a special basis, expressly distinguished by the parties from the ordinary arrangements for a hotel room.

10 When Mr Mehta's first claim was pleaded in West London County Court in May 1994 by counsel and solicitors, the pleading was based on a licence and not a tenancy, contrary to Mr Mehta's instructions and subsequently corrected by him on amendment, and the interim injunction was discharged on the ground that a licence was not binding on a purchaser of the hotel with notice: see *Ashburn Anstalt v Arnold* ([1989] ChD 1).

11 When Mr Mehta's claims were struck out on other occasions at first instance or by the Court of Appeal it was assumed by the courts that he had no more than a licence.

12 Mr Mehta sought to rely on requirements of the local authority for long-term letting on the footing that the hotel did not have established user. That was not accepted.

13 In documents prepared shortly before Mr Mehta was evicted he was described as a resident, and a long-term guest. Those documents were relied on by Mr Mehta as evidencing what he had agreed orally with Mr McKerchar.

In his Lordship's judgment, the question whether this was a tenancy or a contractual licence on the facts of the case, was not an easy one to answer and the approach of the House of Lords in *Street v Mountford* was not easy to apply in such circumstances.

His Lordship concluded that what had been agreed was a contractual licence and not a tenancy. In reaching his conclusion his Lordship said that it might be considered that he was going contrary to Lord Templeman's view that the three hallmarks to which he referred were decisive in favour of a tenancy.

However, in his Lordship's judgment, the observations in *Street v Mountford* were directed primarily to a case in which the three hallmarks were the factors of overriding importance, and in which the landlord had deliberately set out to exclude Rent Act protection for the tenant.

Those observations could not be applied indiscriminately, and particularly not in a case in which there were other equally significant factors to be taken into account in addition to the three hallmarks.

Having regard to all the factors above, his Lordship was satisfied that this case was distinguishable from *Street v Mountford* on its facts. Like Lord Templeman his Lordship was concerned as to how contractual tenancies and contractual licences were in general to be distinguished.

But in his Lordship's judgment there was no simple, all-embracing test for such a distinction. The search for such a test would be a search for a chimera.

What each court, faced with the need to make a distinction, had to do was weigh all the relevant and significant factors and to decide in the light of them on which side of the line the particular case fell.

This case fell on the contractual licence side of the line: see *Abbeyfield (Harpenden) Society Ltd v Woods* ([1968] 1 WLR 374), *Luganda v Service Hotels Ltd* ([1969] 2 Ch 209), and *Marchant v Charters* ([1977] 1 WLR 1181).

His Lordship concluded that a notice period of four months was appropriate, that Mr Mehta was entitled under section 27 of the Housing Act 1988 to the statutory damages of £45,000 against Mr Ramji, calculated under section 28.

Mr Ramji was also vicariously liable for the trespass committed by Mr Adams and Mr Nolan, the total of £27,500 to be set off against the statutory damages.

Each of Mr Adams and Mr Nolan was liable to Mr Mehta in trespass and as joint tortfeasor the same common law damages totalling £27,500.

His Lordship referred to comments made on October 17, 1997, by Lord Justice Robert Walker when he had refused leave to appeal the decision of Mr Justice Curtis on May 7, 1997 striking out Mr Mehta's action against the bank.

Lord Justice Robert Walker had stated that in law the bank as mortgagee was not responsible for the actions of Mr Adams, although it was the bank which had appointed him as receiver. Under the general law, and under the terms of the mortgage, it was the mortgagor, Mr Ramji who would normally bear such responsibility.

Lord Justice Robert Walker had drawn attention to the harshness of that principle, since it was always the mortgagee, not the mortgagor, who had the funds necessary to make good the receiver's wrongful acts.

His Lordship respectfully added his voice to that of the Court of Appeal. This was a long established principle that needed reconsideration in modern conditions because not infrequently it could work serious injustice.

His Lordship added that the absence of legal aid had meant that virtually all the proceedings had been conducted by Mr Mehta as a litigant in person. That had resulted in a number of abortive proceedings, involving much wasted costs, time and effort, not least on the part of the courts.

If the litigant in person had been able to obtain competent and effective legal advice from the outset, the right defendants could have been sued in respect of the right causes of action.

Instead the time of the courts has been spent on many occasions unnecessarily. That was not the fault of the litigant in person, Mr Mehta, who had, as Lord Justice Robert Walker had recognised had floundered without knowledge or guidance in a legal system which provided virtually no help to him as a litigant in person.

It was not improbable that the costs of unnecessary court time had substantially exceeded, in the demands made on the public purse, the cost of simple legal aid if provided to Mr Mehta.

It seemed to his Lordship that, in the course of the present reforms of the civil justice system, one aim needed to be to achieve a better balance between, the cost to the taxpayer of abortive civil legal proceedings before the courts, and the cost of providing effective and competent legal advice and assistance so as to avoid such abortive proceedings.

Unless that was achieved, the unnecessary burden on the civil courts was likely to rise substantially.

Solicitors: Keegan Williams.

Court of Appeal

Failure to comply with salary package

Cantor Fitzgerald International v Callaghan and Others

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment January 21]

In a contract of employment the contractual arrangements for pay between employer and employee were of crucial importance. The deliberate and determined refusal by an employer to honour an agreement thus diminishing the value to an employee of an agreed salary package amounted to a repudiatory breach of the contract of employment.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by five employees, Lee Callaghan, Kevin Chandler, Michael Gomez, Robert Shallis and Sean Talbot, from the judgment of Mr Justice Popplewell on March 26, 1997, whereby he had held, inter alia, that their employer, Cantor Fitzgerald International, had not repudiated their contracts of employment by failing to comply with the agreed arrangements as to their salary packages.

Mr Eldred Tabachnik QC and Miss Jane Tracy Forster for the employees; Mr Alistair McGregor, QC and Mr Nigel Porter for the employer.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the employees were members of a team of inter-dealer brokers employed by Cantor on its Belgian government securities desk.

In 1997 the five handed in a joint notice of termination of their employment, intending to start work with Cantor's rivals, Liberty EurAsia Ltd.

For the purposes of the appeal the defendants claimed that their contracts of employment had been repudiated on the ground, inter alia, that Cantor had wrongly failed or refused to comply with the agreed arrangements in relation to their salary packages, connected in particular with assurances given to them about tax liabilities.

Their contracts of employment with Cantor had made provision for payment to each of them of four-year £60,000 forgiveable loans that included arrangements to exclude any prospect of any tax liability being incurred by the defendants.

In the eventual circumstances, and inconsistently with that agreement, each defendant became liable to tax on the imputed benefit of the interest-free element of the forgiveable loans and Cantor refused to do anything about the problem.

The loan agreement was integral to the contracts of employment and was intended to and in fact formed part of the defendants' agreed salary package and was plainly intended to represent a contractually binding warranty that there would be no additional liability for tax.

The judge assumed that Cantor was in breach of a contractually enforceable obligation but that the defendants' claim failed. He held that Cantor's failure to pay the sums in question did not amount to a significant breach going to the root of the contract of employment.

However, a more wide-ranging argument had now developed about the correct approach to a failure or refusal by an employer to honour his employee's salary package.

The first principle advanced by Cantor was that contracts of employment did not constitute a special type of contract in which one party, the employee, was justified in treating the contract as repudiated by the other, the employer, however minimal the breach.

That was correct. As Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had observed in *Western Excavation (ECC) Ltd v Sharp* ([1978] 1 QB 761, 769):

"If the employer is guilty of conduct which is a significant breach going to the root of the contract of employment, or which shows that the employer no longer intends to be bound by one or more of the essential terms of the contract, then the employee is entitled to treat himself as discharged from any further performance. If he does so then he terminates the contract by reason of the employer's conduct."

The argument based on the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in *Gillies v Richard Daniels and Co Ltd* ([1979] IRLR 457) misled the judge into approaching the impact of a decision by an employer to withhold or reduce pay as if the amount and the proportion it bore to the total package were conclusive of the question whether or not the breach was repudiatory.

In reality it was difficult to exaggerate the crucial importance of pay in any contract of employment. In simple terms the employee offered his skills and efforts in exchange for his pay.

That was the understanding at the heart of the contractual arrangment between him and his employer: see *Cresswell v Board of Inland Revenue* ([1984] ICR 508, 522); *R. F. Hill Ltd v Mooney* ([1981] IRLR 258); *Miles v Wakefield Metropolitan District Council* ([1987] AC 539, 570) and *Rigby v Ferodo Ltd* ([1988] ICR 29).

The question whether non-payment of agreed wages or interference by an employer with a salary package was or was not fundamental to the continued existence of a contract of employment, depended on the critical distinction to be drawn between an employer's failure to pay, or his delay in paying agreed remuneration, and his deliberate refusal to do so.

Where the failure or delay constituted a breach of contract, depending on the circumstances, that might represent no more than a temporary fault in the employer's technology, an accounting error or simple mistake, or illness, or accident, or unexpected events. If so, it would be open to the court to conclude that the breach did not go to the root of the contract.

On the other hand, if the failure or delay in payment was repeated and persistent, perhaps also unexplained, the court might be driven to conclude that the breach or breaches were indeed repudiatory.

Where, however, an employer unilaterally reduced his employee's pay or diminished the value of his salary package, the entire foundation for the contract of employment was undermined.

Therefore, an emphatic denial by the employer of his obligation to pay the agreed salary or wage, or a determined resolution not to comply with his contractual obligations in relation to pay and remuneration would normally be regarded as repudiatory.

It was doubtful that the concept of de minimis had any relevance in this field. If the amount at stake was very small, and the circumstances justifying a minimal reduction were explained to the employee, then the likelihood was that he would be prepared to accept new terms by way of mutual variation of the original contract.

However, an apparently slight change imposed on a reluctant employee by economic pressure exercised by the employer should not be confused with a consensual variation, and in such circumstances an employee would be entitled to treat the contract of employment as discharged by the employer's breach.

In this case the amount in issue was not in the context of the overall package very great, although the sums at stake were not trivial. However, the refusal to pay was deliberate and determined, motivated by a desire improperly to pressurise the defendants into harder work.

The decision wholly undermined the contract of employment and constituted a repudiatory breach.

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed.

Solicitors: Magrath & Co; Norton Rose.

Naming company when disqualifying director

In re Surrey Leisure Ltd

Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker

[Judgment January 14]

In disqualification proceedings brought under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 it was permissible for the applicant for a disqualification order to nominate more than one lead company on the originating application. However, there was no requirement under section 16(1) that the notice of intention to bring such proceedings should name all the lead companies.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by Michael Keam against an order made by Judge Morgan at Kingston County Court refusing to strike out proceedings brought by the Official Receiver under section 6 of the 1986 Act.

Section 16 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) A person intending to apply for the making of a disqualification order by the court having jurisdiction to wind up a company shall give not less than 10 days' notice of his intention to the person against whom the order is sought."

Mr Matthew Collings for Mr Keam; Mr Jonathan Crow for the Official Receiver.

MR JUSTICE JONATHAN PARKER said the Official Receiver had brought proceedings in the matter of two companies, Surrey Leisure Ltd and Joe Bananas Ltd.

On September 13, 1996, the Official Receiver wrote to the respondents giving notice of his intention to seek disqualification orders against them. The letter was headed "In the matter of Joe Bananas Ltd" and made no reference to Surrey Leisure Ltd.

However, the originating application in the disqualification proceedings was headed "In the matter of Joe Bananas Ltd and in the matter of Surrey Leisure Ltd".

On July 23, 1998, Mr Keam issued an application to strike out the entire proceedings on the ground that the Official Receiver had not complied with section 16(1) because he failed to give prior notice of the disqualification proceedings in so far as they related to Surrey Leisure Ltd.

On that application the judge concluded that there had been a failure to comply with section 16(1) but that following the Court of Appeal decision in *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Langridge* ([1991] Ch 402) the provisions of section 16 were not mandatory but merely directory.

Accordingly, non-compliance did not automatically render the subsequent proceedings a nullity, rather, the court had a discretion to excuse or overlook the non-compliance. The judge went on to conclude that in the exercise of his discretion, the proceedings should not be struck out.

His Lordship said that he respectfully disagreed with the judge. Section 16(1) contained no specific provision as to what the required notice was to contain, save that it was to be not less than 10 days notice of the would-be applicant's intention to seek a disqualification order against the recipient "by the court having jurisdiction to wind up a company".

The expression "a company" plainly referred to the lead company or companies.

In his Lordship's judgment, given the absence of any further specific statutory requirements as to the content of the notice, to hold that in order to comply with section 16(1) a notice must specify which was, or were, to be the lead company or companies in the intended proceedings would be to write into the subsection a requirement which Parliament had not thought fit to include.

His Lordship stated that given the lack of specificity in section 16(1), the right approach to the question whether a notice had or had not complied with the subsection was to consider whether, on the facts of the particular case, the respondent had received the limited protection to which the subsection may be supposed to entitle him. His Lordship concluded that Mr Keam had received that protection.

Mr Collings further submitted, that on its proper construction, the Act did not allow an applicant to nominate more than one lead company and that in naming two, the instant proceedings were inherently bad and should be struck out.

In support of that submission he pointed to the fact that in section 6(1)(b) there was a reference to "company or companies", indicating that references to "a company" in section 6(1)(a) and to "that company" in section 6(1)(b) were intended to refer only to a single company.

Mr Collings also submitted that the Court of Appeal's decision in *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Ivens and Another* ([1997] 2 BCLC 334) supported the view that only one lead company was permissible.

His Lordship said that he rejected that submission. It had been said many times in the authorities that the purpose of the Act was to prevent persons acting as directors who were unfit to do so.

That being so, there was no reason in principle why the applicant for a disqualification order who sought to establish unfitness in relation to more than one lead company should be obliged to limit himself to naming only one of those companies as lead companies, leaving the other or others to be treated as collateral companies, since by doing so he might be limiting his chances of obtaining an order.

Nor was there anything in the Act which justified such an artificial and arbitrary result.

Solicitors: Payne Hicks Beach; Burstows, Brighton.

Illness irrelevant in time limit extension

Regina v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Bennett

Before Lord Justice Otton and Mrs Justice Steel

[Judgment December 21]

In deciding whether it was appropriate to extend custody time limits, under section 22(3) of the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985, it was irrelevant, when considering whether the prosecution had acted with all due expedition, to take into account an alleged victim's illness.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in allowing an application for judicial review and granting an order of certiorari quashing the decision of Judge Hawkins, QC, on November 11, 1998, to extend a custody time limit until November 30, 1998, because the alleged victim was undergoing a throat operation.

The prosecution had failed to conform with orders made by Judge Michael Hyam, Recorder of London, on October 2, 1998, regarding the service of certain items on the defence within set time limits or by November 11, 1998.

The custody time limit was due to expire at midnight November 12/13, 1998. On October 26, 1998 the Crown had served a notice to extend the custody time limit. The defence stated that they would not oppose the application. The application was successful.

Ms Philipa MacAtasney for Michael John Bennett; Mr Stephen Warner for the Central Criminal Court.

LORD JUSTICE OTTON said that the judge fell into error in reaching the conclusion he did upon the basis of the reasoning he adopted.

Although he had acknowledged the necessity to consider section 22(a) of the 1985 Act separately from section 22(b) he had done exactly the opposite.

He had considered subparagraph (b) in light of subparagraph (a) and the concession by the defence that there was good and sufficient cause for doing so by virtue of the indisposition of the principal prosecution witness.

It was no more permissible when considering whether the prosecution had acted with all due expedition to take into account whether there was a good and sufficient cause than for the learned judge when considering whether there was good and sufficient cause for doing so to take account of the fact whether the prosecution had or had not acted with all due expedition.

In other words, the fact that the trial could not have gone ahead in any event because of the alleged victim's illness was an irrelevant consideration when deciding whether the prosecution had acted with all due expedition.

His Lordship, in reliance on *R v Manchester Crown Court, Ex parte MacDonald and Others* (*The Times* November 19, 1998) was unable to accede to Miss MacAtasney's second ground that there was no basis for the conclusion that the prosecution had acted with all due expedition.

Mrs Justice Steel agreed.

Solicitors: Marlows, Kingston upon Thames; Crown Prosecution Service, Kingston upon Thames.

Bailor failed to collect goods in reasonable time

Jerry Juhan Developments SA v Avon Tyres Ltd

Before Mr Justice Evans-Lombe

[Judgment January 19]

Where a bailor breached an implied term of a bailment by failing to take delivery of goods within a reasonable time, there was no burden on a bailee who had lost the goods to prove that he would have been in a position to deliver them up at any time up until the expiry of the reasonable period.

Mr Justice Evans-Lombe sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held when dismissing an action by the plaintiffs, Jerry Juhan Developments SA, against Avon Tyres Ltd.

Mr Mark Sutton for the plaintiffs; Mr Adam Tolley for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE EVANS-LOMBE said that the plaintiffs were a Swiss company and the owners of a patent tyre system involving twin narrow tyres mounted on a single hub.

In 1983 they granted Jerry Juhan Developments (UK) Ltd the right to manufacture, supply and distribute their tyres within the United Kingdom. JJD (UK) then contracted with Avon Tyres for the manufacture of the plaintiffs' patented tyres from moulds made to JJD (UK)'s design. The plaintiffs alleged that they financed the purchase of the tyre moulds and they remained their owners.

In the autumn of 1991, Avon decided that the manufacture of the tyres was insufficiently profitable and terminated their agreement with JJD (UK).

From the date of termination until December 2, 1993, they made inquiries about the disposal of the moulds but it was not until at least September 1996 that the plaintiffs demanded their return by which time the moulds had been mislaid.

The plaintiffs then commenced proceedings on the basis that the moulds were held by the defendants as bailees of the plaintiffs.

The defendants claimed that if they were bailees then there was an implied term in the bailment that the plaintiff would collect them within a reasonable time.

Accordingly, the defendants' duties as bailees had long since expired by the time the plaintiffs came to ask for the return of their moulds.

In support of that contention, the defendants cited *Pedrick v Morning Star Motors Ltd* (unreported, February 14, 1979), *Davis v Henry Birks and Sons Ltd* ([1982] 142 DLR 356) and *Maritime Coastal Containers Ltd v Shelburn Marine Ltd* ([1982] 52 NSR 51).

It was submitted by the plaintiffs, that the decision in *Pedrick* had been superseded by section 12 of the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977.

That section applied, inter alia, where a bailor was in breach of an obligation to take delivery of the goods. The section empowered the bailee on giving notice in the form prescribed by the Act to sell the goods in question and account to the bailor for the proceeds of sale, less costs of the sale.

It was the plaintiffs' contention that the existence of that statutory provision precluded the court from implying a term into the contract of bailment that the obligations of the bailee under it would be discharged after the failure of the bailor to collect the goods bailed within a reasonable time of the conclusion of the contract.

His Lordship said that he did not accept that contention. Section 12 could not be read as a provision excluding previous existing common law rules relating to contracts of bailment.

All it did was to provide a bailee with a specific power of sale of the goods bailed in circumstances where the bailor was obliged to take delivered but failed to do so.

The facts of the present case illustrated circumstances where a bailee might not wish to exercise the powers conferred by section 12. It was the defendants' case that the moulds were only worth the negligible sums represented by their scrap value. Accordingly, it was very doubtful that the proceeds of sale of the moulds would cover the costs of attempting to sell them.

It was further contended by the plaintiffs on the authority of *Mitchell v Ealing London Borough Council* ([1979] 1 QB 1), that there was a burden on the defendants to show that they retained the moulds to be handed over to the plaintiffs up to the time of the expiry of the implied reasonable period within which they were to be collected by the plaintiff.

His Lordship said that he did not accept that contention either. *Mitchell* dealt with the point at which the local authority's obligations as gratuitous bailees of the plaintiff's furniture, with the limited duties to protect it resulting from that status was converted, by their actions, into a liability as insurer of the furniture.

Accordingly it was not authority for the proposition contended by the plaintiffs.

His Lordship stated that he accepted the defendant's submissions that a term was implied into the contract that the owner of the moulds would collect them from the defendant within six months of them being available for collection.

The failure to do so within that period breached the implied term and operated to relieve the defendants of their obligation as bailee of the moulds.

In the absence of any authority, his Lordship said that it was not appropriate to place on the defendants a burden to show that they were in a position to deliver up the moulds at all times up to the expiry of that six-month period.

Solicitors: Stockler Charity; Norton Rose.

Distinguishing compromise and release

Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA (in compulsory liquidation) v Ali and Another

Before Mr Justice Lightman

[Judgment December 18]

The essential difference between a compromise and a release was that in the former there was a release of claims for valuable consideration, and in the latter there was no such consideration.

An agreement entered into by former employees in settlement of "all or any claims whether under statute, common law, or in equity" arising from their previous employment in return for payment, was therefore a compromise and effective to settle claims whether the parties were aware of them or not.

Furthermore no duty of disclosure of wrongdoing on the part of the employer arose on such a compromise as a result of the implied term of trust and confidence in the contract of employment.

Mr Justice Lightman so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when, inter alia, dismissing the claim of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA, by its liquidators, that agreements contained in form COT3 of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service signed on July 4, 1990 by Khawaja Mohammad Naeem, Sultana Runi Khan and others, the employees, were binding compromise agreements which precluded all claims against the bank, save for claims in respect of pension rights, including their claims for stigma damages and misrepresentation.

In the course of the liquidation of the plaintiff bank, which became insolvent in 1991, sought to recover loans made to employees and in turn the former employees made counterclaims, and proved in the liquidation, for damages for breach of the employment contract. The bank contended that they were precluded from so doing by the COT3 agreement.

Miss Cherie Booth, QC, Mr Ajmulal Hossain, QC, Mr Isaac Jacob, Mr Andrew Stafford and Mr Andrew Sharland for the employees; Mr Christopher Jeans, Miss Annie Hockaday and Mr Daniel Stilitz for the liquidators.

MR JUSTICE LIGHTMAN said that the essential issue raised was the existence and extent of any obligation of disclosure of his own breaches of the employment contract owed by an employer to his employee, and more particularly, on conclusion of a settlement of claims between them following upon the dismissal of the employee.

The action proceeded on the assumed basis that there was a subsisting breach of the trust and confidence term when the agreement was signed and that the employees were unaware of the breach.

Non-disclosure

The employees contended that the agreements signed by them were voidable on the ground that the bank, in breach of a duty of disclosure owed to them, failed to disclose its insolvency and that it was carrying on a dishonest business.

It was the employees' contention that, while there was no duty of disclosure on a party to a compromise, there was such a duty on the part of a party who sought to obtain and subsequently rely on a release and that where there was an employment contract and a subsequent settlement of claims between employer and employee, the employer was under a duty of disclosure by reason of the trust and confidence term implied on the part of the parties to an employment contract.

Compromise or release

The first issue was whether the agreement was to be categorised as a release or as a compromise.

The bank contended that for the present purpose the critical distinction was the giving of valuable consideration in return for the release: if valuable consideration was given for a release of claims, there was a compromise, but if no valuable consideration was given and the release was effective notwithstanding its absence by reason of the release being granted by the deed, there was a free-standing release and not a compromise.

The employees contended that there could not be a compromise unless there was a clearly identified dispute or potential dispute in the contemplation of the parties and that that pre-condition to the existence of a compromise was absent in this case.

In his Lordship's judgment, the essential difference between a compromise and a release was that in compromise there was a release of claims for valuable consideration, and in release there was no such consideration.

In this case the substance of the transaction was the settlement of all possible claims by the employees against the bank arising from their previous employment by the bank in return for payment.

The transaction in substance and form was a compromise and effective to settle claims whether the parties were aware of them or not: see *Kitchen Design and Advice Ltd v Lea Valley Water Company* ([1989] 2 Lloyd's Rep 221).

Duty of disclosure under employment contract

The employees contended that there had been a sea-change in employment law since the decision in *Bell v Lever Bros Ltd* ([1932] AC 161) culminating in the decision in *Malik and Another v BCCI SA (in compulsory liquidation)* (*The Times* July 13, 1998; [1998] AC 20).

They submitted that the widened ambit given in *Malik* to the trust and confidence term had the effect of giving rise to a duty of disclosure of breaches of contract by an employer where they might give rise to risks to "the physical, financial and even psychological welfare of the employee", as described by Lord Steyn in *Malik*.

His Lordship did not think that recent developments supported the proposition that the ruling in *Bell v Lever Bros* was no longer the law.

The revolutionary change suggested by the employees could not be effected by a sidewind or by any court lower than the House of Lords.

His Lordship did not think that the duty asserted by the employees was maintainable.

His Lordship considered the employee's submissions on unilateral mistake and misrepresentation and held that they had no cause of action in misrepresentation.

Conclusion

His Lordship accordingly dismissed the challenge made by the employees to the validity of the agreement and held that they were bound by it and that it precluded claims by signatories to it for damages for breach of contract and misrepresentation.

It was impossible not to feel great sympathy for the plight of the employees and others in a like position, but they were in law bound by the bargain which they made and his Lordship was not free to release them from it.

Solicitors: Beale & Co; Lovell White Durrant.

Bylaws allow for eel-fishing licences

Mott and Another v Environment Agency

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment January 20]

Express provision was made in bylaws passed in 1990 by the National Rivers Authority for the licence issuing authority to authorise the issue of licences for the placing and use of fixed engines for fishing for salmon or eels generally in the authority's area.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the appeal of the defendant, the Environment Agency, against the judgment of Judge William Gaskell in Monmouth County Court on December 8, 1997, when he gave judgment for the plaintiffs, Nigel William Mott and David Henry Merrett, in the sum of £20,300 for damages for the agency's unlawful seizure of the plaintiffs' Gloucester Eel Net, bought for the purpose of fishing for eels in the River Wye.

Mr Geraint Jones for the agency; Mr Stephen Barstow for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS said that the plaintiffs, both commercial fishermen although not partners, fishing for salmon and eels, obtained a licence in 1995 from the Welsh Water Authority, the defendant's predecessors, to fish for eels.

The plaintiffs' net was seized soon after by the defendant's bailiff on the basis that it contravened a 1982/83 bylaw, issued by the authority under statutory powers, and it was proposed to prosecute the plaintiffs for offences contrary to section 6(1)(a) of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 of placing a fixed engine in any inland waters.

The prosecution was withdrawn when the defendant authority was advised that the bylaw was invalid and the plaintiffs claimed damages for unlawful seizure of their net.

His Lordship said that it was common ground that the 1982/83 bylaw was made beyond the enabling powers of the 1975 Act. *Champion v Maughan* ([1984] 1 WLR 469) established that the offence under section 6(1) was one of strict liability, so that the defendant authority had no power to grant licences for eel fishing under that bylaw.

However, there was no doubt that after the 1975 Act was amended by section 33 of the Salmon Act 1986, the defendant had power to issue a licence for a fixed engine as authorised under bylaws: see section 6(3) of and paragraph 21A of Schedule 3 to the 1975 Act, as amended.

Bylaws were passed by the National Rivers Authority, Welsh Region, pursuant to statutory powers, in 1990 and it was common ground that the River Wye was within the defendant authority's area.

The judge rejected the defendant's submission that no bylaws had been passed, pursuant to section 6(3)(c) of the 1975 Act, as amended, permitting the plaintiffs to carry out the activity authorised by the licence granted to them.

He accepted the plaintiffs' submission that bylaw 3(d) of the 1990 bylaws, relating to the placing and use of fixed engines: "Nothing in this bylaw shall restrict the placing and use by any person of any fixed engine which has been licensed by the authority for fishing for salmon or eels" covered areas otherwise excluded but in respect of which a specific licence or authority was granted.

His Lordship accepted that the plaintiffs' submissions were entirely sensible, and that paragraphs (a) to (c) of bylaw 3 provided a blanket approval for the placing of fixed engines at various locations specifically defined, and that paragraph (d) was intended to give the authority power to issue licences in other areas.

It was unfortunate that the latter paragraph was drafted in the negative. Accordingly, the defendant had express authority by bylaw 3(d) to issue licences for eel fishing by fixed engines.

Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Thorpe agreed.

Solicitors: A. G. Heale & Co, Cardiff; Francis & Co, Lydney.

Correction

In *Unity FR 165 Ltd v Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food* (*The Times* January 20) Mr Martin Edmunds, instructed by Kitsons, Torquay, appeared for the ministry and Mr Robin Miller, instructed by Gill Akaster, Plymouth, appeared for the appellant defendants.

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

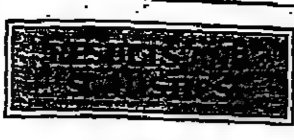
SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED



هكذا من الأصل

TODAY

Interims: Filtronic, Haynes Publishing, Monsoon, Wintrust. **Finals:** Lonrho. **Economic statistics:** none scheduled.

TOMORROW

Interims: Aston Villa, Cassidy Brothers, FII Group, Photo-Me International. **Finals:** IMS Group, London Scottish Bank. **Economic statistics:** CBI quarterly industrial trends survey.

WEDNESDAY

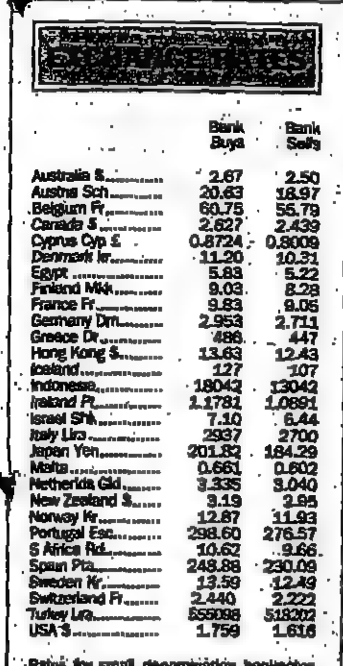
Interims: Aromascan. **Finals:** Northern Rock. **Economic statistics:** November global, December non-EU trade figures; fourth-quarter mortgage repossessions.

THURSDAY

Interims: Bryant Group, Goodhead, Medisys, MISYS. **Finals:** Bensons Crisps, Chemring. **Economic statistics:** December British Bankers' Association mortgage lending.

FRIDAY

Interims: Richards. **Finals:** Derby Trust, Partridge Fine Art, Stavert Zigomala. **Economic statistics:** Nationwide January house price survey; National Institute of Economic and Social Research quarterly economic review.



	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.50
Austria Sch	20.63	18.97
Belgium Fr	60.75	55.79
Canada $	2.627	2.439
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8724	0.8009
Denmark Kr	11.20	10.31
Egypt	5.83	5.22
Finland Mkk	9.03	8.28
France Fr	9.83	9.05
Germany Dm	2.953	2.711
Greece Dr	486	447
Hong Kong $	13.63	12.43
Iceland	127	107
Indonesia	18042	13042
Ireland Pt	1.1781	1.0891
Israel Shk	7.10	6.44
Italy Lira	2937	2700
Japan Yen	201.82	184.29
Malta	0.661	0.602
Netherlds Gld	3.335	3.040
New Zealand $	3.19	2.95
Norway Kr	12.87	11.93
Portugal Esc	298.60	276.57
S Africa Rd	10.62	9.66
Spain Pta	248.88	230.09
Sweden Kr	13.59	12.49
Switzerland Fr	2.440	2.222
Turkey Lira	555098	518202
USA $	1.759	1.616

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.



Northern Rock prepares to kick off season with modest increase

NORTHERN ROCK: The former building society kicks off the bank reporting season on Wednesday and is expected to show a modest improvement in full-year profits — in spite of a slowdown in lending growth.

The bank, which is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, is believed to have a reasonable pipeline of mortgage business for 1999, but analysts will be keen to see whether increased competition from new entrants such as Prudential's Egg and Standard Life Bank will have put pressure on Northern Rock's margins.

In 1997, the bank's net interest margin — the key measure of profitability — shrank to 1.69 from 1.92. Investors should watch out for any further reduction.

The City is expecting between £201 million and £209 million for pre-tax profits (£198 million). Earnings per share are projected at about 31p and the dividend is expected to be raised to 12p (10.5p).

LONRHO: The group returns its first year of earnings as a dedicated mining business today and its platinum business is expected to put a shine on the profits. The City, however, is looking for news on whether the company is to take full control of Lonrho Platinum, buying out Gencor's 27 per cent stake in the division.

It is expected to have made £88 million pre-tax profit, against the £101 million it made last year before the sales of Princess Hotels, Dutton Forshaw and Lonrho Sugar. Analysts are also hoping for it to sell its 33 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields and focus on areas where it has full control.

MISYS: The computer services group that recently lost its place in the FTSE 100 index is expected to produce a strong set of interim results on Thursday after shrugging off recent turmoil in its key banking and insurance markets.

The company, which produces risk management software for banks and insurance companies as well as software for the US healthcare market, is expected to produce pre-tax profits of about £54 million (£19.2 million). Analysts also expect to be reassured about the performance of Medic, the company's healthcare software division. There have been concerns that the division will suffer because of consolidation in the US healthcare market which is seen as a "non-core" area for Misys.

MONSOON: When Monsoon gives its interim results today all eyes will be on its profit margins. When it floated at 198p a share in February last year, its sceptics were convinced that the profit margins of 19 per cent were not sustainable on a competitive high street. The bears have been proved right on the shares, now a penny above their low at 55½p.

There are no projections for the halfway stage, but it should still be on the way towards its fourteenth successive year of higher profits. Still, Christmas trading is expected to be dire, with underlying sales down at least 5 per cent.

OASIS: The retailer gives its Christmas trading statement on Wednesday and is expected to have picked up on anything Monsoon may have lost. The City is less concerned about like-for-like sales figures from the retailer — mainly because it is expected to have had fewer leftovers to flog in the sales. This means its profit margins should hold at the 14 per cent level, after slipping from about 18 per cent earlier.

WH SMITH: The retail group holds its annual meeting on Wednesday. No surprises are expected from its trading statement but shareholders may well ask exactly what it plans to do with the Internet. Richard Handover, chief executive, is becoming increasingly fired up about the Web and has referred to its high street stores as "the bricks and mortar side of the business".

The City now expects it to offer Internet access, like Dixons — but will this be offered for free? Has it found a telecoms company such as Energis to do all the connection work? How much shareholders' cash will be deployed?

While enchantment with would-be Internet stocks is still dictating its share price, some early answers may emerge.



Ruud Gullit, left, Newcastle United's coach, may wish to swap tips on strategy with fellow Tynesiders Leo Finn, centre, Northern Rock's managing director, and Adam Applegarth, executive director

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Greenspan in spotlight

With most of January's main data now issued, analysts' thoughts will turn from the UK towards unease in international markets. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, will hold markets' attention on Thursday with his second set-piece appearance before Congress this month. He is expected to say more on likely effects of Brazil's crisis on the US economy. His view on whether there is any mileage in Argentina's plans to abolish its peso and adopt the US dollar will also be keenly awaited.

Latin American problems are also likely to dominate the world economics jamboree in Davos, beginning on Thursday.

The chances of a swift cut in European interest rates are likely to become clearer with the publication of eurozone inflation data tomorrow. Analysts expect no monthly rise in prices, giving an annual rate of increase in harmonised inflation of 0.8 per cent in December, against 0.9 per cent the previous month. The December eurozone M3 money supply data, also out this week, is expected to show a slight rise in the annual rate of growth from 4.5 per cent to 4.8 per cent, still well within the European Central Bank's monitoring range.

Japan's woes will be highlighted by figures due this week, with the focus on retail sales data on Wednesday. MMS International, the forecaster, expects sales to show an annual fall of 5.5 per cent in December.

The CBI industrial survey due tomorrow will indicate sentiment among UK firms. Sentiment normally edges up in the new year and analysts expect interest rate cuts also to foster a slight recovery, but the confidence measure will still point to a continuing decline in manufacturing output.

UK trade data due on Wednesday is expected to show the largest quarterly deficit since the end of the last decade.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Burmah Castrol, Inn Business, Reuters, Signet, Cranswick; Sell NatWest, Blockleys, Centrica. *The Sunday Telegraph:* Buy PizzaExpress, Newsquest, House of Fraser, Ring, Signet; Sell NatWest, Britannic Assurance, Johnson Fry. *The Observer:* Buy P&O; Hold Somerfield, Legal & General, Frost. *The Express on Sunday:* Buy Psion, Prestbury. *The Mail on Sunday:* Buy Enterprise Oil, Lasmo, Monument Oil.

Hotel groups in legal row after casino is closed

By Dominic Walsh

MIDDLESBROUGH has become the unlikely setting for a multimillion-pound legal spat between two of the country's biggest hotel groups.

Thistle Hotels, the owner of the town's Hospitality Inn, is being sued by Stakis, which operates the casino on the ground floor, after closing the hotel down in July for structural repairs and a refurbishment.

David Michels, Stakis chief executive, said that despite Thistle's assurances that the building was safe, he had not felt comfortable about keeping the casino open. "My board decided that if the hotel was closed then our casino couldn't trade there. As a result, we have initiated legal proceedings against Thistle."

Although he declined to comment further, local sources believe Stakis received legal advice that it would be liable for any potential injuries to its casino members. The hotel is not expected to reopen until the end of the year and Stakis is thought to be seeking compensation for loss of business, running into millions of pounds.

Thistle admits that the Hospitality Inn has had structural problems — indeed, it led to a £6 million writedown in its half-year results in September — but its view is that its tenant had no need to close its casino. A spokesman said: "We closed the Hospitality Inn for one reason only: because the building work would have inconvenienced customers substantially. But this building work would not have affected Stakis's operation which has a separate access."

The closure of the casino was one of several one-off factors that dragged down the first-quarter performance of Stakis's casinos. However, hotels continued to trade well, albeit at a slightly slower growth rate than previously, and its LivingWell health and fitness clubs stormed ahead.

EU set to approve tax that may cost 110,000 City jobs

By Martin Waller

DEFEAT is looming in Brussels tomorrow for attempts by British MEPs to prevent the introduction of the so-called "withholding tax" which could cost as many as 110,000 City jobs.

Simon Murphy, MEP for Midlands West, has tabled a series of amendments aimed at mitigating the effects on the financial community of the tax, which requires EU nations to tax investments or savings held by other EU nationals at source.

Such a law is already in place in France and Germany and its proponents, who include Mario Monti, the powerful Single Market Commissioner, say harmonisation across the Union is essential to fight tax evasion.

But it would badly hit the eurobond market in London because firms would either have to tax foreign nationals at the source of their income or keep track of their financial affairs.

The European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee will vote on the Murphy amendments and others tomorrow before drawing up a report to go to the full Parliament for a vote, probably in March.

Although the Committee is split, it is thought that a majority will reject the amendments, which would exclude income from international bonds and delay any tax until it is adopted by other important financial centres.



Monti: seeks harmonisation

Mr Murphy, Labour spokesman on economic and industrial affairs at Strasbourg, said he would reintroduce his amendments when the tax goes before Parliament. "We aren't going to vote for anything that will undermine jobs and competitiveness in the City," he said. "We want to stop tax evasion but we don't think this is the way to do it."

Opponents of the tax, which include the Corporation of London and various securities markets trade bodies, say it would result in a flight of business to New York and other trading centres that would cost thousands of jobs — according to one forecast, as many as 110,000 if the entire eurobond market is lost.

If Parliament agrees the tax, the final chance of preventing its introduction lies with the Council of Ministers, because the matter is subject to a veto by any member state. Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has indicated that he will apply this unless there is an exemption for the eurobond market, but opponents are unwilling to rely on such a political solution.

"It depends on whether he is prepared to use the veto," said one observer. "The battle isn't finished."

Mr Murphy said he thought that several other EU members might also be prepared to exercise a veto at Council level. Luxembourg also has no withholding tax, and its MEPs have supported the British at Strasbourg.

Starbucks poaches property director from Arcadia

By Fraser Nelson

STARBUCKS, the £3 billion US coffee shop chain, has poached Arcadia's retail property director to spearhead its push into the UK.

Tim Morris, who manages the 1,600 stores in Arcadia's Burton-to-Top Shop portfolio, will join in March after working out his notice.

His job will be to scour the United Kingdom for sites to meet Starbuck's ambitious plans to expand its stores from 13 to 250 throughout the country within four years. It has 2,000 worldwide.

Scott Svenson, who became head of Starbucks UK after selling his Seattle Coffee Company for £49 million in April last year, said: "We're now building our team quite aggressively and we want to have completed it when we start expanding. Tim will be looking after the real estate side."

Although London is brimming with coffee shops, Mr Svenson believes there is massive scope in Scotland and the North of England.

The 62 remaining Seattle Coffee Company shops are in the process of changing into Starbucks over the next few months.

Although Mr Morris has been with Arcadia since it was part of the Burton Group, he was not a main board director.

Arcadia said he was part of a team of three that looked after the retail property side.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 33

CUNURA

(a) A very hard, heavy wood grown in Central America. It has a variegated grain appearing as streaks. It has a waxy feel, is dark brown and takes a polish. Hard to work, it can be used for cogs and decorative items, and as a substitute for Lignum Vitae.

GONBAD

(c) A form of mausoleum architecture developed by and popular among Seljuk Turks in Iran, and carried into Iraq and Anatolia. Also called Turbe, or "tomb tower". It is a tower formed on a cylindrical base, and using the form of seljuk tents. By the 12th century a fashion came in of using square or polygonal bases.

GUMBO

(a) An aromatic soup/stew. It is characteristic of the Creole cuisine of Louisiana, and combines African, American and European elements. The name is derived from Bantu for Okra, one of the typical ingredients, prized for giving body to the dish.

UMIAK

(c) A boat used by Innuits from Greenland, and later Alaska, for transport. It is called the "woman's boat", as distinct from the Kayak, or men's hunting and fishing boat. It is made from seal or other animal skins strung over a wooden or whalebone frame. It is covered, whereas a Kayak is open.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. ... Rd3! leaves White without a good reply as 2. Bxd3 Bxd3 wins easily.

Relaunch as BLMS gets new chief

BLMS, the fruit machines supplier formerly known as Bass Leisure Machine Services, will today announce the appointment of a new chairman and its formal relaunch as Leisure Link Group (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company, which was bought out from Bass for £70 million last summer by Duke Street Capital, has appointed Mike Foster, the former chief executive of the controversial Inntrepreneur pub chain, as its non-executive chairman.

Mr Foster, chairman of the Brewers & Licensed Retailers Association, has been recruited by Russell Hoyle, Leisure Link's chief executive. Mr Hoyle said: "This appointment positions Leisure Link as one of the key suppliers to the retail on-trade."

Search for the best proves a fluid task

From Telewest to Scottish Power, the FTSE 100 is dominating Britain, says Jason Nissé

NAPOLEON famously said that Britain was a nation of shopkeepers. He was implying that small businesses formed the backbone of this island nation, defining the British psyche as a country of individuals, who like to work for themselves, create their own enterprises and develop them. A nation of entrepreneurs, if you will.

A cursory look at the London stock market might make one think that this has all changed. An institution developed shortly before Napoleon came to power is now dominated by a handful of increasingly powerful companies.

UK-listed groups such as BP Amoco, Glaxo Wellcome, AstraZeneca, Vodafone and Diageo stand among the largest companies in the world. The Stoxx list of the top 50 companies in Europe has more UK-based members (13) than members from any other country. The members of the FTSE 100 list of the UK's top companies account for more than 80 per cent of the value of the London stock market. We are increasingly becoming less a nation of shopkeepers than a nation of employees.

That is why, just under 18 months ago, *The Times* started a unique analysis of the 100 leading corporations in Britain. The Corporate Profile series is aimed at getting to the heart of these giant companies that dominate our lives and our investment decisions, understanding what makes them tick, what is their "unique selling proposition", how well they deliver to the objectives that they set themselves and how they interact with other organisations and the community at large.

The board structure is analysed, as are the market's views of the companies and a rating, out of 100, looking at issues such as how well the directors are paid, how the shares have performed and whether the company has a well explained and executed ethical policy.

At the end of this mammoth task, which started in October 1997 with Pearson, which was just at the start of the Marjorie Scardino revolution, there should be an answer to the question: "What is Britain's best corporation?"

At the moment, the series is pretty much at its halfway stage. This might seem strange given that nearly 70 companies have been analysed, but the FTSE 100 is a dynamic list, recalculated every three months and so changes quite dramatically. For example, Sema Group, profiled in November, no longer merits its place in the FTSE 100, thanks to the decline in the value of the company. (Our analysis of Sema was quite dismissive, questioning whether its corporate structure under Pierre Bonelli was open enough and wondering where growth would be coming from for the computer systems company.) Other well-known companies to lose their FTSE status in recent months have included Nycomed Amersham and British Land, while the likes of COLT Telecom (which was valued at only £500 million when this series started and now is worth more than £7 billion), Telewest and WPP have all risen from the ranks to take their place at the market's top table.

Then there has been corporate activity. There will always be bids and deals, but the past few years have seen some of the most hectic dealmaking in British history. There are many reasons for this. Europe and the US have entered an era of low inflation and low growth, while the previously exciting Far Eastern market has fallen apart, so taking away a large amount of the growth potential for European companies. At the same time a low oil price has led to a radical restructuring of that industry, while growing consolidation among fund managers and their increasing reliance on index-tracking rather than active management has seen a "flight to size" in institutional investment decisions.

How has this manifested itself? Well, BP was just BP when it was profiled last June — now it has merged with Amoco. Commercial Union was independent when it appeared in December 1997, now it has merged with General Accident. However, the most obvious example is BAT Industries.

When it was analysed on December 15, 1997, it was a large, unwieldy tobacco and insurance conglomerate. We predicted that plans to demerge the company might enhance what had been a pretty poor share performance. How right this proved. The financial services side broke away and merged with Zurich Reinsurance, prompting a dramatic rerating of the company that nearly doubled its market value. The cigarette business has also thrived, striking a deal earlier this month to merge with Rothmans and create the world's second-largest tobacco group.

So, of the companies profiled, which came out well and which badly? On the simple mathematical verdict, the best and worst are clear. Scottish Power — which was then, irritatingly, called ScottishPower — stands head and shoulders above everyone else with a score of 81½, thanks to a ten out of ten for its pay policy and nines for strength of brand and innovation. At the time we praised its ability to size up situations and act quickly, something shown when it moved to buy PacifiCorp, the US utility.

Surprisingly, perhaps, Shell and British Land also obtained high ratings. They showed that clear and well-defined policies on remuneration can differentiate a company operating in difficult markets. Rentokil Initial might ponder this, its low rating being partially because of a two for ethical expression.

And at the bottom? There is a clear loser — Telewest Communication. It arrived in the FTSE 100 thanks to its deal to acquire General Cable and so make it, by a short head, the largest cable TV company in the UK. Our analysis pointed out its capacity to disappoint, to fail to exploit the market opportunities and, with a mere one out of ten for ethical expression, its failure to define clearly what is expected of its employees. To be fair to Telewest, though, it had been through a lot of turmoil and its latest chief executive, Tony Illsley, had yet to get to grips with the company.

Given that the next lowest score was for BAT Industries, it is clear that companies can redeem themselves by swift and decisive action.

In the next few weeks some of the best-performing companies on the stock market will be profiled, such as Kingfisher, one of the few retailers to rise above the Christmas gloom, and Orange, a standard bearer for the telecom revolution.











Making their mark: Marjorie Scardino, a *Business Woman of the Year* award winner, with, clockwise, from top left: Ian Robinson, chief executive at Scottish Power, which came out on top; John Browne, of BP Amoco; Paul Chisholm, of COLT Telecom; and Tony Illsley, of Telewest. Rentokil Initial, the pest controller, had a low rating on ethical expression

THE VERDICTS

COMPANY	SCORE	DATE
Scottish Power	[illegible]	Feb 09 1998
Shell	79	Oct 27 1997
British Land	[illegible]	Dec 07 1998
BAA	78	Dec 22 1997
BP	[illegible]	[illegible]
Legal & General	78	Jun 22 1998
Granada	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cadbury Schweppes	77	Apr 14 1998
PowerGen	[illegible]	[illegible]
Boots	76	Apr 27 1998
Lloyds TSB	75	Nov 10 1997
British Aerospace	75	Jun 15 1998
Stagecoach	[illegible]	[illegible]
Schroders	74	Jun 01 1998
BG	[illegible]	[illegible]
Asda	74	Oct 13 1997
Reuters	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tesco	73	Jun 08 1998
Reckitt & Colman	[illegible]	[illegible]
British Energy	73	Apr 20 1998
Smiths Industries	[illegible]	[illegible]
Halifax	73	Jan 05 1998
COLT Telecom	[illegible]	[illegible]
Nycomed Amersham	72	Nov 09 1998
United News & Media	71	[illegible]
Hays	71	Oct 12 1998
National Power	70	[illegible]
Prudential	70	Oct 5 1998
3i	[illegible]	[illegible]
Diageo	69	Nov 2 1998
Severn Trent	[illegible]	[illegible]
WPP	69	Aug 10 1998
Carlton Communications	[illegible]	[illegible]
Unilever	69	Feb 23 1998
Scottish & Newcastle	[illegible]	[illegible]
Allied Domecq	68	Nov 30 1998
SmithKline Beecham	[illegible]	[illegible]
HSBC	68	Aug 17 1998
Compass	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rolls-Royce	67	Feb 16 1998
Rio Tinto	[illegible]	[illegible]
ICI	67	Mar 16 1998
Reed Elsevier	[illegible]	[illegible]
Amvescap	66	Sep 21 1998
Railtrack	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sema	66	Nov 23 1998
Tomkins	[illegible]	[illegible]
Abbey National	65	May 25 1998
Norwich Union	[illegible]	[illegible]
Alliance & Leicester	64	Jul 13 1998
Thames Water	[illegible]	[illegible]
CU*	63	Dec 01 1997
Woolwich	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rentokil Initial	62	Dec 08 1997
J Sainsbury	[illegible]	[illegible]
British Airways	61	Oct 20 1997
Pearson	[illegible]	[illegible]
Royal & SunAlliance	58	Mar 30 1998
Barclays	[illegible]	[illegible]
Safeway	54	Mar 09 1998
NatWest	[illegible]	[illegible]
United Utilities	54	Apr 06 1998
Billiton	[illegible]	[illegible]
BAT Industries**	49	Dec 15 1997
Telewest	47	[illegible]

* before the merger with General Accident
** before the demerger into financial services and tobacco and the subsequent deals to create AlliedZurich and merge BAT with Rothmans

BP Amoco and Shell aim to wrongfoot the greens

Carl Mortished reports on pragmatic moves by two leading oil companies to maintain growth while disarming environmental campaigners

A judge in Anchorage, Alaska, will be asked tomorrow to stop BP Amoco from building an ice road six miles into the Arctic Ocean, the first stage in the oil company's development of the Northstar oilfield.

It is a large project involving the creation of an island in the Beaufort Sea and the oil industry's old adversary, Greenpeace, is trying to stop the development as part of its campaign against fossil fuels, thought to be a cause of global warming.

This week Greenpeace initiated a legal manoeuvre in the Alaskan courts, asking for a "stay" of the roadworks, claiming that BP lacked the necessary permits. The legal dispute is highly technical, based on the interpretation of the scope of BP's existing permits.

Not surprisingly, the oil company is dismissive of Greenpeace's tactics. Greenpeace is fighting an uphill struggle in Alaska where its views are not popular. The collapse in the oil price is hurting the State's main industry and the Governor, with the help of big brother oil, is urging the federal Government to open a major wildlife refuge to development. Today BP will announce a round of redundancies in Alaska — not a good time to be fighting a battle to stop investment.

You might think that a crisis in the global energy industry would be a boon for Greenpeace and its campaign on climate change. An oil glut is a useful argument to persuade the public that current investment in fossil fuels is already excessive.

Unfortunately for Greenpeace, it is finding the going tough. A campaign last summer against oil exploration West of Shetlands failed to generate much publicity and membership is in decline. From a peak of 4.8 million worldwide in 1991, Greenpeace International lost almost two million supporters in five years. And in the year to January 1998 membership plunged a further 14 per cent from 2.9 million to 2.5 million. Weariness of the Greenpeace shock tactics may be setting in but the real problem is that the enemy has stolen its clothes.

Rodney Chase, deputy chief executive of BP Amoco, the monster accused of despoiling the Alaskan wilderness, was recently heard addressing the Fabian Society in London. He conceded that a tax on carbon emissions might be a necessary and effective tool for the Government if it was to achieve the targets that it agreed at the Kyoto summit on climate change.

Greenpeace campaigners regard this sort of rhetoric as a cynical publicity stunt. Melanie Duchin, the organisation's spokesman in Anchorage said: "Their activities up here make that hard to swallow. BP has shown time and again that it will do just anything to open up new oil reserves."

Until recently. Today, oil companies round the world are cutting back their exploration, not for the sake of wildlife but because it makes little economic sense to pump oil at a cost of $12 per barrel when the market price is $11. An industry crisis tends to concentrate minds and no surprise, then, to find that BP's approach to environmental issues is highly pragmatic. Mr Chase puts it simply: "If our industry is judged as too damaging to the environment, it will go out of business."

When you are Britain's largest company, going out of business is not an option and Mr Chase is impatient with those who seek a U-turn. "I cannot debate with people who say get rid of hydrocarbons and invest in solar. We are trying as hard as we can with solar. We are building a business but you cannot wave a wand and get there."

BP's strategy was all about getting there before the politicians are hijacked by the green lobby and introduce vicious new taxes. They desperately want to be the solution, not the problem. In addition to seed capital in a solar cell business, the company has been developing an internal carbon emissions trading network, in an attempt to build a system that can be offered to the Government as a workable model.

However, the oil company's efforts at developing emissions trading received a setback when Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge's report into methods of reducing carbon emissions rejected the proposed trading permits as too complex a system. The report favoured taxes.

Undeterred, Mr Chase upped the ante by announcing that BP was in favour of tax, but only the right sort of tax. Taxes on petrol have done little to curb consumption and much to boost inflation. BP wants the Government to set verifiable emission targets, with incentives (tax breaks) for meeting them or penalties for failing to comply. "I personally believe positive motivation works better, but it could be done with penalties."

Stealing your opponent's ideas and working them to your advantage is a strategy that has worked well for the Government. But for BP the stakes are much higher. Unlike the Labour Government, BP is playing a long-term game, a couple of Parliaments is the development cycle of just one medium-sized oilfield. As Mr Chase puts its: "Anyone who thinks you can operate at the froth and bubble level in this debate is stupid."

The oil companies are fighting for their right to be growth industries — if they fail to address the climate challenge and find solutions, they will survive but decline into dull utilities, selling yesterday's product.

BP's approach is endorsed by Shell, but the vast bulk of the oil industry, mainly American, is pouring millions of pounds into a campaign against the Green lobby. Friends of the Earth reckon that the gap is widening between the BP/Shell camp and the rest, represented by the Global Climate Coalition, with core backing from Exxon.

A spokesman from Friends of the Earth reckons that BP is not selling greenwash. "It is important because it is a signal, to suggest that some form of carbon tax is inevitable."

The battle has only just begun and the $10 price of oil, painful as it is for the Exxons of this world, gives consumers little incentive to support alternatives.

But a glut of oil, prices at uneconomic levels and weak demand from the consumer has caused some industry executives to wonder about the long-term future of the oil industry. As Friends of the Earth sees it: "These are canny business people. They want to stay one step ahead of the game."



Greenpeace activists confront a seismic testing vessel in the Beaufort Sea, off Alaska, where BP Amoco plans an ice road

Marshall: favoured taxes

If you can beat them, why join them?

On the face of it, you wouldn't think that current events in Argentina could have much bearing on the key economic issue facing Britain, but they do. For several years, Argentina has maintained a rigid link between the peso and the dollar but now she is considering abandoning her currency altogether and simply adopting the dollar — so-called "dollarisation". At a stroke, the peso would disappear. There would be no exchange rate and no Argentine monetary policy. All prices would be in dollars and dollars would be held in wallets and purses. From a monetary standpoint, Argentina would become part of the United States. Now do you see? Argentina is considering doing what Britain would do if she joined the euro.

In fact, hers would be an even bolder step. For the countries of euroland pool their monetary sovereignty. Argentina would simply surrender hers. The difference lies in the fact that the countries of euroland have a say in monetary policy, and the European Central Bank (ECB) makes decisions in pursuit of their collective interests. Moreover, they share in the profits accruing from the issue of euro notes and coins. Argentina would enjoy neither of these advantages.

So why should she even consider such a step? Over the past 30 years the world has operated with a wide variety of different currency regimes. But in modern conditions of vast international capital movements, the choice seems to be collapsing to the two extremes — absolutely fixed exchange rates or floating ones. The myriad variations in between, such as adjustable pegs, crawling pegs, ERMs, and the like, are easily swept away in a torrent of market speculation.

The exchange-rate system that Argentina currently uses is the currency board, which is about the closest you can get to absolute rigidity of exchange rates, without quite having it. Under this system, which is also operative in Hong Kong, a country gives up all independent monetary policy. Its ability to issue notes is precisely limited by changes in its foreign currency reserves.

Compared with completely abandoning the domestic currency altogether, this has two economic advantages. First, the currency board makes a profit. Whereas the notes it issues carry no interest and are virtually costless to print, it earns interest on the foreign currency deposits and securities that it holds as reserves. Second, because the national currency still exists, the government retains the power to break the apparently fixed relationship, by either devaluing or floating.

But here is the supreme irony. If the market believes that a country may use that flexibility, then it will exact a price. In that case, the flexibility may not be worth having. This is Argentina's predicament. Despite the fact that it has stuck faithfully to the currency board system, because of its history the markets are still suspicious. Accordingly, interest rates have to be higher, even though pesos are freely interchangeable with dollars at a fixed rate.



ROGER BOOTLE

What to do? There is an argument for taking this nasty medicine and suffering, thereby demonstrating commitment to the markets in the hope that the interest rate premium that they demand will eventually fall. That is the route taken by Hong Kong.

Another option is simply to float the currency. That is the choice recently made by Brazil. But the danger for countries like Brazil and Argentina, with their histories of very high inflation and weak currencies, is that people simply take the float as a signal that, as in the past, the internal and external value of the currency are set to chase each other downwards. As a result, there is a severe risk of lapsing into hyperinflation. That is why the third option of giving up the national currency altogether deserves serious consideration.

What presents Argentina and Brazil with this awkward choice has important lessons for Britain. It is the history of their own monetary incompetence and the markets' suspicions that they may return to their bad old ways. Britain is in a very different situation. Long-term interest rates tell the story. Far from imposing a premium on Britain, the markets are close to accepting a discount. True, British ten-year yields are about half a point higher than their German or French equivalents, (although they are half a point lower than their US equivalents). But once our short-term interest rates have converged on the euroland level, then our ten-year rates may well be lower than the rates ruling in euroland. Indeed, this is already true for 30-year bonds, where British rates are almost half a point below their euro equivalents.

According to the Europhiles, the convergence of British rates upon their euro equivalents is explained by the dominance of the view that we will eventually join the single currency. But there is another explanation. The system of an inflation target and an independent MPC has operated successfully. By contrast, the arrangements for the ECB look seriously flawed. At best, they are completely untested. We simply do not know how the institutional relationships governing the euro will hold up in the teeth of the difficult circumstances that look increasingly likely for the years ahead.

If Argentina gives up the peso, she would be giving up a legacy of monetary failure, and a rating that reflects that, in favour of the monetary competence and international rating of the Federal Reserve, tried and tested over many years. By contrast, if we were soon to join the euro, we would be giving up a monetary regime that is actually rated highly by the markets in favour of something which, for all the hype and windy rhetoric, is still a pig in a poke.

Ministers disagree over £1bn air traffic sell-off

By Arthur Leathley, Aviation Correspondent

A DISPUTE has broken out between John Prescott and Gordon Brown over plans for a £1 billion sale of the air traffic control service.

The Chancellor is under pressure from the Deputy Prime Minister to delay the sale by up to two years to ensure that taxpayers obtain the best value from the disposal.

Mr Brown is understood to be anxious to stage the sell-off next year, but he has been told that doubts over a new £475 million air traffic control centre are likely to reduce the value of the sale, possibly by half.

Mr Prescott fears that long-running problems over the new centre are likely to cut the sale price because of doubts among potential investors.

Whitehall officials suggest that delaying the sale until after the next general election, probably in 2002, would ensure a better price, coinciding with the expected opening of the new computerised centre, at Swanwick, Hampshire.

The Swanwick headquarters, originally scheduled to open in 1996, will house the world's most advanced computerised air traffic control system, but it has been beset by technical problems, which have caused a string of delays.

The sale of 51 per cent of the air traffic service, which handles 1.6 million flights a year over Britain, is the biggest sell-off proposed by ministers. However, there are fears in the City and Whitehall that investors will not bid for the service unless given cast-iron assurances that the new centre will operate smoothly, and that taxpayers will pick up costs of failures.

Mr Prescott's worries about market value are particularly acute because Mr Brown has agreed that sale proceeds will be earmarked for transport projects. Mr Prescott is said to be alarmed by the risk of a "dud" sale hitting his transport plans. His fears follow National Audit Office criticism of the transport department for costing taxpayers up to £1.5 billion in the Conservative Government's rushed sale of Railtrack.

The Institute of Actuaries says that ministers must give details of risks attached to the new centre if taxpayers are to get "value for money". Chris Lewin, chairman of its corporate finance committee, said: "There is a lot of information about certain risks of the new centre, but it is not very clear how much of those risks would impact on shareholders. It is unreasonable to expect investors to pick up the burden of problems caused by the public sector."

Ministers plan to publish a draft Bill within months to permit a sell-off, but John Reid, Transport Minister, has suggested that the sale could be delayed by two years to get "a better value on the stock market".

The Civil Aviation Authority wants a swift partial sale because, it says, £100 million a year needs to be invested in air traffic control.



John Prescott fears "dud" sale of air traffic control service

Scottish Equitable rises

By Chris Ayres

SCOTTISH EQUITABLE, the Edinburgh pensions and investment company, yesterday said that it had enjoyed a 27 per cent rise in new premiums to £2.1 billion during 1998.

The results came as the company started its restructuring into three divisions: pensions and investments, asset management and international holdings. The restructured company will trade under the name of Aegon UK.

Total annualised premiums income rose 19 per cent to £373 million, and new annual premiums rose 31 per cent to £179 million. New single premiums rose 28 per cent to £1.9 billion.

David Henderson, Scottish Equitable's chief executive, said: "Significant growth from the raised platform we set ourselves from last year was always going to be a challenge and I am delighted with the results." He added that the company's pensions business had continued to deliver outstanding growth. "I am still very bullish on the prospects for further growth through this route," he said.

British Steel seeks action on dumped imports

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

BRITISH STEEL will this week step up pressure on the Government over cheap steel imports flooding into the UK. It will warn MPs that dumping of underpriced steel by countries such as Bulgaria, India, South Africa and Taiwan is jeopardising British jobs.

The company is already cutting up to 12,000 jobs to try to make its steel more competitive as it attempts to combat sterling's strength and fallout from Asia's economic crisis. Its call for action comes after a protest about steel imports to the Department of Trade and Industry by 28 local authorities representing steel producing areas.

The European Commission has begun anti-dumping investigations. British Steel has urged the DTI to put pressure on the Commission.

British Steel will also tell MPs that a carbon energy tax would imperil its competitiveness and threaten jobs. It will say that its position is further threatened because four of its main competitors — steel producers in China, Brazil, India and South Korea — are outside the Kyoto agreement on greenhouse gas reductions.

City analysts last week began raising estimates of British Steel's losses. The group is expected to be in the red by as much as £200 million for its year to March after being battered by sterling's strength and falling steel prices in Europe. However, prices are thought to have flattened now. More details on job losses are expected soon from Avesta-Sheffield, the troubled stainless steel plant in which British Steel has a majority stake.

Insurer pens policy to cover songwriters

By Chris Ayres

LORD LLOYD-WEBBER may not have to worry about legal actions over the authorship of his work any more. A specialist British insurance company, Robertson Taylor, has launched a new policy for famous songwriters who fear being sued for plagiarism.

The policy, brought out to coincide with the opening of the music industry's annual Midem exhibition in Cannes, is designed to cover the back-catalogues of well known songwriters against a rapidly rising number of plagiarism claims.

The increase in litigation has been blamed partly on modern musical methods such as "sampling", where clips from old records are cut together to create new songs. Many record companies refuse to take any responsibility for plagiarism, leaving individual songwriters to fight their own cases.

The launch of the policy follows complaints by some of Britain's leading songwriters — including Sir Tim Rice, Sir Elton John, Sting, Phil Collins and Mick Jagger — that the right to legal defence for the theft of a piece of music is being abused.

They claim that famous songwriters often settle even ludicrous claims because of the enormous costs involved in fighting a legal battle. The most recent case came when a virtually unknown American musician, Ray Repp, accused Lord Lloyd-Webber of basing the theme to Phantom of the Opera on his 1978 song, Till You. Although Lord Lloyd-Webber successfully defended the action, the eight-year case cost him an estimated £1.4 million in legal fees.



Sting: claims law is abused

Artists ranging from Garth Brooks, the country star, to Massive Attack, the ultra-trendy dance group, have also recently faced plagiarism claims. John Silcock, managing director of Robertson Taylor, said: "We've had a lot of interest in this policy already, and to my knowledge it's the first of its kind."

He added that the policy had been devised with the help of Peter Oxendale, a leading musicologist. However, Mr Silcock said his company would not carry out its own checks for plagiarism on a songwriter's back catalogue before selling a policy. He refused to name interested clients. "A clause of the policy is that the existence of the policy is not disclosed," he said.

Businesses lift spending on arts to £115m a year

By Jason Nissé

BRITISH businesses spent more than £115 million on sponsorship and other partnerships with arts organisation in the year to last September, figures released today will show.

The spending is up by nearly £20 million on the previous year's figures and represents a 24 per cent leap in corporate sponsorship of arts events, such as the Monet exhibition now on at the Royal Academy with backing from Ernst & Young, the accountancy firm.

Figures released by the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA) in its annual report show that corporate activity is rising in almost all areas of the arts.

Corporate sponsorship rose from £51.3 million to £63.4 million, with BT, Orange and Ernst & Young among firms leading the way. Sponsorship of capital projects, such as EDS's backing of the Lowry Centre in Manchester rose from £16.9 million to £19.4 million. Much of this rise has been through projects begun in tandem with National Lottery Heritage Fund grants.

Corporate donations also rose sharply, from £6 million to £9 million.

London continues to win the lion's share of money coming from corporations, receiving a total of £48.8 million. In second place, and far behind, was Scotland, with £11.3 million.

Colin Tweedy, chief executive of the ABSA, said: "Despite the threat of recession, the corporate sector is continuing to recognise that the arts are relevant to business."

Artistic licensing, page 46

[illegible] INVESTMENT MARKET

1998 High	Low	Mid Cap (million)	Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Monet makes the world go round for galleries

Kimberly McDonald reports on the growing commercial exploitation of artistic licensing

An unprecedented throng of visitors descended upon the Royal Academy last week for the opening of its Monet exhibition and the chance to bask in the vitality of Impressionist paintings, to savour the fusion of light in Monet's water lily pictures and, of course, to buy a nifty Monet refrigerator magnet for £2.95.

For museums, merchandising has become big business. While the art purists dine on the aesthetic feast that is Monet, the tills at the Academy ring merrily from sales of everything from beginner paint sets for children to jewellery and ceramics. But the need to generate revenues outside the building has spawned a growing interest in art licensing. After all, who could have guessed that the Royal couple Victoria and Albert could end up alongside Coca-Cola as a lucrative and exploitable brand name? Or that John Lennon's whimsical drawings of animals and celestial objects would grace baby's bottoms around the world?

What was once considered a déclassé function that diluted cultural value is increasingly being seen as a vital part of how artists across the globe and Britain's public museums make up for diminishing funding.

Keeping London's museums and art galleries going costs the taxpayer approaching £200 million a year. The Victoria & Albert museum, by general consent the world's finest display of decorative art and design, has been allocated some £29 million for the current tax year but is losing about £1 million a year in government funding. The British Museum gets £33 million and the Science Museum £20 million. The Royal Academy is hoping that Monet mania will clear its £500,000 debts. All are under pressure to find alternative funds.

Last year V&A Enterprises, the museum's trading arm, handed over £950,000 in profits to the museum, a 25 per cent rise on the previous year. Its income from licensing ventures rose 87 per cent. Those sorts of numbers are hard to ignore. And as government funding continues to dwindle, most industry executives admit that further commercialisation is inevitable. "Even if you wanted to turn back time to the days when museums were only about the artistic experience, you'd be living a pipe dream," said Michael Cass, president of V&A Enterprises.

At present V&A, the most aggressive in its commercial pursuits, has some 97 licensees. Nearly half are in North America but they span 17 other countries. In Britain the V&A label has attracted companies such as Colefax and Fowler (furnishings), Dorma (bedlinen), Coats Viyella (clothing), Ryalux (carpets) and Fired Earth (paints).

Last year, Marks & Spencer promoted the V&A name in preference to its own ubiquitous St Michael for the first time on a range of lingerie, nighties and toiletries. Others to try commercial pursuits include the National Trust, in interior decoration, the Tate and Pret A Manger, collaborating on the Cézannewich, and the British Museum with its Heathrow shop.

Britain's move picks up on a trend that has been gathering steam in America for several years. US art licensing revenues rose 3 per cent last year to $5.4 billion (about £3.2 billion).

William Carter, the 134-year-old manufacturer of baby apparel, now owned by Investcorp, recently paid an undisclosed amount for permission to use Lennon's drawings on its pastel-toned pyjamas, bedding, wallpaper, and other products for newborns to six-year-olds. Lennon is said to have come up with the drawings to help to teach his son, Sean, to read.

With corporate brands responsible for the single biggest segment of licensing, American museum executives expect more collaborations between corporations and artists.

Other estates to profit from art licensing include those of Miles Davis, Frank Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol. The art winds up on neckties, coffee cups and T-shirts among other products. "Britons are catching up fast with their American brothers and sisters with exploiting art and the institutions," said Geoffrey Matthews, managing director of The National Gallery Publications.

The V&A's commercial success has inspired others to take on similar projects. The National Gallery is negotiating a print poster licence and plans to get into greeting cards, according to Matthews. The challenge, however, is to not devalue the museum's brand or objects in the process. These days, acknowledging the extent to which culture has been commodified almost inevitably leads to a discussion about "dumbing down". It is said to undermine expectations of cultural activities and subvert the quality of experience that they provide.

Now that debate has included the notion that licensing can be tastefully done if museums are selective in the types of products to which they lend their name. The way in which the original work is interpreted in a product matters too. "You must get the mix right so as to create an aura of quality," said Cass.

"Licensing has gained a certain amount of legitimacy, away from what artists thought of as a schlocky sort of mercenary, low-rent usage of art, toward becoming part of a life style," said Martin Brochstein, executive editor of *The Licensing Letter*, an industry newsletter in the US.

And while Picasso T-shirt and mug-mania continues its upward trajectory in the US, museum executives remain convinced that the British ethos will not allow the commercialisation of art to reach the same level here. "What's going on in America is regarded as a bit tacky," said Andrew Morris, managing director of the Business Design Centre. "There's still a strong belief in Britain that originality should be preserved and cherished and not demeaned."

"The mass merchandising in the US is more extreme because there is less government support of the arts and culturally there are fewer inhibitions about commercial exploitation. We still have a bit more reserve in the matter," said Cass.

Britons' voracious appetite for pure, unadulterated art was proved this week by the response to the Monet in the 20th Century exhibition. The Royal Academy said it had pre-sold a record 157,000 timed-tickets, in an effort to control crowds once the exhibition is open to the public, at a record £9.

Though some art institutions are showing a willingness to dabble in the commercial world, no individual British artist has touched that ground. But even art purists will not rule out the possibility. "I certainly couldn't say it would never happen, especially given the Americanisation of the UK," said Morris.

In America, artists came to regard licensing in a less negative light in part because museums helped to fuel an industry of posters, greeting cards and other take-home products generated by retrospectives and other shows of important art — the very same thing that is happening now in Britain.

DENZIL MCNEELANCE



Revenue is rising from commercial spin-offs during events such as the Monet exhibition

CHANGE ON WEEK

US Dollar
1.6541 (+0.0013)
Euro
0.7002 (-0.0009)
Exchange index
99.8 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
3423.9 (-65.2)
FTSE 100
5861.2 (-79.8)
New York Dow Jones
9130.97 (-209.58)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
14154.40 (n/a)

TELEVISION CHOICE

The fascism in farming

Against the Grain
BBC2, 7.30pm

The rumbustious Oliver Walston has spent much of his polemic on the state of British farming denouncing the "crazy" common agricultural policy and advocating the abolition of all farm subsidies. In his final programme he plays bad guy again, mounting a sturdy defence of the use of agrochemicals and a blistering attack on campaigners against genetically engineered crops. He even, in his disarming way, calls the protesters who dig up such crops fascists, though some may feel that Walston is a bit of a fascist himself. But although he enjoys giving offence, he is a superb television presenter: witty, fluent, controversial and with a gift for the telling phrase. He also, though many of his fellow farmers will be appalled by what he says, speaks from a genuine love of farming.

Oliver Walston meets Helen Browning, an organic farmer (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Raising the Roof
BBC2, 8.00pm

Your walls seem wet, you call in a company to look at them and it tells you that you have rising damp requiring expensive treatment. But according to this latest investigation into the housing business, such firms are either speaking in ignorance or touting for unnecessary work. According to Mike Parrett, a surveyor with a London council, damp is more likely to be caused by blocked drains or water mains. Over ten years Parrett has tested more than 1,000 properties and says that he has not found a single true case of rising damp. Another expert says bluntly that rising damp is a myth. But tell that to the trade. Ten companies, including household names, are called to a house with damp walls, but nothing more, and asked their advice. Nine claim to find rising damp and they quote up to £6,000 for putting it right.

Dad
BBC1, 8.30pm

Having recently labelled this sitcom as gentle and inoffensive, we must apply a touch of revisionism. For tonight's episode is about sex. Admittedly it exists more in the mind of Kevin McNally's twitchy Alan than in the reality, but this does not prevent it being discussed with an openness that some may feel excessive before the nine o'clock watershed. Or perhaps this is being too stuffy and, explicit or not, Andrew Marshall's script takes a simple comic premise and develops it splendidly. Alan's paranoia is fed on two fronts. He is convinced that Dad (George Cole) is secretly carrying on with a widow and he is aghast to discover that son Vincent (Toby-Ross Bryant) has brought not one but two girls home for the night. An extension of the joke is that while Alan is quick to see sexual excess in others, his own performance in that department is decidedly lacking.

Mayday
Channel 4, 9.00pm

After exploring most of the other causes of shipping disasters, *Mayday* concludes by looking at those that can be attributed to faults in design. It is the cue for recalling, among others, the fate of the *Dona Paz*, a passenger ferry which sank off the Philippines with the loss of more than 5,000 lives, and, more familiar to British viewers, the *Herald of Free Enterprise* tragedy. Passenger ferries, it is suggested, are unusually accident-prone because of their vulnerability to sudden capsizing once water enters the car deck. The programme also considers the design hazards of bulk carriers, of which an alarming 45 have broken up or sunk in the past seven years. The first-hand testimony of survivors forms a poignant adjunct to the dispassionate inquiries of the safety experts. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Dead Men Tell No Tales
Radio 4, 2.15pm

The title of this *Afternoon Play* is ironic, as we learn early on: "I died on August 3 some 50 years ago in a cramped room in a furnished lodging house..." The words are those of Olivier Becaille (Michael Maloney), who is featured in the central story in this clever and enjoyable welding, by Kelvin Segger, of three Emile Zola stories into one play. The themes are death and obsession and Becaille's story, in particular, finds an echo in all our nightmares: taken ill in Paris, he awakes to hear people planning his funeral. He can neither move nor speak so he is helpless to intervene when the coffin lid is nailed down above him. The other two stories star Robin Bowerman, Sunny Ormonde and Terry Molloy.

Postscript: Dissenting Voices
Radio 3, 9.10pm

Our present preoccupation with the first way, the second way and Tony Blair's Third Way only reinforces the fact that most of the thinking that permeates the broadcast media is essentially part of the mainstream: there is little room for real dissent of the intellectual rather than political variety. In tonight's *Postscript* Tony Benn introduces extracts from the political memoirs of William Morris, whose socialist belief was exemplified in his radical designs for house decoration and furniture: he believed that the talents of the individual craftsman had been suppressed by the Victorian emphasis on mass production and capitalism. As these writings show, Morris was about a lot more than wallpaper. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00pm Kevin Greening 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Clive Warren. Medley of hits 8.00 Lamacq Live 12.00am The Breezeblock 2.00 Emma B 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00pm Jimmy Young 2.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 8.00 Big Band Legends Live 8.30 Georgie Fame (4/4) 9.30 Mark Lamarr: Shake, Rattle and Roll. New series (1/10) 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.00am Katrina Leskanich 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00 Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive 7.00 News Extra 7.30 Football Legends. Gordon Banks 8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Oxford United v Chelsea 10.00 Late Night Live. Round-up of the day's sporting news with Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night. Gary Robertson with news from around the world and a preview of the day's papers

VIRGIN

6.30am Danny Baker 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 6.45 Peter and Geoff (FM: London Calling) 10.00 Mark Forrest 1.00am Steve Power 4.30 Richard Allen

TALK RADIO

6.00am Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks and Nick Ferrari 9.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Raeburn 3.00 Peter Deeley's Drivetime 5.00 The SportZone 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 News 7.15 Newstalk 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Record News 8.20 Off the Shelf: Silas Marner 8.35 Health Matters 9.00 World News 9.05 Westway Access 9.20 The Vintage Chart Show 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 Britain Today 10.45 The Farming World 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Pick of the World 12.00pm News 12.05 Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Health Matters 2.30 Meridian 3.00 World News 3.05 Sports Roundup 3.15 Record News 3.30 Composer of the Month 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Multitrack: Hit-List 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 Britain Today 6.30 The Next Big Thing 7.00 World News 7.05 Health Matters 7.30 Small Worlds 7.45 Off the Shelf: Silas Marner 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitrack: Hit-List 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00am The World Today 12.30 Health Matters 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Westway 1.45 Record News 2.00 The World Today 2.30 The Next Big Thing 3.00 The World Today 3.20 Sports Round-Up 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Easier Breakfast. Favourite musical works, plus regular information updates 9.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour and Record of the Week 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones presents listeners' favourites 2.00 Concerto. Hummel: Trumpet Concerto in G minor 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics and Afternoon Romance 6.30 Newsnight. John Brunning presents the latest stories 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. Two hours of soothing sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. D'albert: Piano Concerto No 1 in B minor. Finzi: Suite, Love's Labour Lost. Tchaikovsky: Francesca da Rimini 11.00 Mann at Night. Wind down with the sound of ambient music 2.00am Concerto. Hummel: Trumpet Concerto in G minor (r) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Music includes works by Dvořák and Debussy, plus Mozart (Quintet in E flat, K452 for piano and wind)
9.00 Masterworks With Peter Hobday. Schubert (Piano Sonata in E, D157: Radu Lupu); Cannabich (Symphony No 63 in D. Lukas Consort/Viktor Lukas); Schubert (Piano Sonata in C, K279); Saint-Saëns (Cello Concerto No 1 in A minor)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Japanese violinist Midori
11.00 Sound Stories The execution of Charles I
12.00pm Composer of the Week: John Tavener
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Live from the Wigmore Hall, London. Grigory Sokolov plays early English keyboard music including Byrd (Pavan and Galliard in D minor) (Almain in D minor); Beethoven (Piano Sonata in C, Op 2 No 3)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras National Orchestra of Wales under Thomas Dausgaard and Tadaaki Otaka. Liszt (Les preludes); Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor); Debussy (La mer); Brahms (Symphony No 1 in C minor)
4.00 Opera in Action French operatic repertoire
4.45 Music Machine Music and Wood
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty explores the musical dynamic behind the play 2 Pianos, 4 Hands
7.30 Performance on 3 (Sounding the Century) BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier, Peter Donohoe and Martin Roscoe (pianos), Janice Watson (soprano). Poulenc (Suite "Les biches"); Concerto for two pianos
9.10 Postscript Tony Benn presents excerpts from the essays of William Morris. See Choice
9.35 Double Sonata by Anthony Powers
10.00 Voices Songs by French composers reacting against the 19th-century Romantic tradition. Lisa Milne (soprano), Sarah Connolly (mezzo), Iain Burnside (piano). Satie (Troise poemes d'amour); Chabrier (Pastorale des cochons roses); Milhaud (Catalogue des fleurs)
10.45 Mixing It Harry Partch, the American composer, theorist and creator of musical instruments
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton meets Benny Golson and talks to him about his work with Tadd Dameron, Dizzy Gillespie and Art Blakey
12.00am Composer of the Week: Henry Purcell (r)
1.00 Through the Night With Donald Macleod. 1.00 Schubert (Piano Sonatas in G, D894); (C minor, D958) 2.10 Machaut (Messe de Nostre Dame) 2.50 Chabrier (Espana) Davis. 3.00-5.00 Schools. 5.00 Lassus (In hora ultima) 5.30 Brahms (Piano Trio No 3 in C minor, Op 101).

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith
6.00 Today With James Naughtie and Sue McGregor
9.00 Start the Week Hosted by Jeremy Paxman
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Victorian Internet Tom Standage's history of the electric telegraph (1/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service From the Chapel of Unity, Belfast Methodist College
10.00 Woman's Hour With Martha Kearney and guests. Drama: Inner Voices, written and performed by Rikkie Beadle Blair
11.00 Great Expectations Biker midwife Alice Coyle's experiences of attending home births in the Western Isles of Scotland. Birthrights and Bleepers (2/3) (r)
11.30 Bangers and Mash Comedy series by Katie Hims. Will health inspectors close down Jimmy's sausage-and-pie business? Gerard McDermott, Roger May and Catherine Harvey star (3/6)
12.00pm (FM) News
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and stories, introduced by Liz Barclay and John Waite
1.00 The World at One News round-up, with Nick Clarke
1.30 Counterpoint Fifth heat of the music quiz, hosted by Ned Sherrin
2.00 The Archers Brian tastes victory (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Dead Men Tell No Tales Kelvin Segger's adaptation of three tales about death by Emile Zola. Starring Norman Bird, Michael Maloney and Struan Rodger. See Choice
3.00 Money Box Live: 0870 010 0444 News from the world of personal finance
3.30 The Vale Tony Robinson reports on an animal rescue centre's efforts to protect a family of foxes endangered by a building site (5/8) (r)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 16 of the history of Britain, recounting the struggle between Church and State. The Law, the Church and the Coming Tragedy (r)
4.00 The Food Programme Derek Cooper meets Britain's oldest producer of cider vinegar (r)
4.30 Turning World Jenni Murray and guests look at human interest stories from around the world
5.00 PM With Clare English and Nigel Wrench
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Just a Minute Clement Freud, Paul Merton, Tony Hawks and Peter Jones try to speak without hesitation, repetition or deviation at London's Radio Theatre. Presented by Nicholas Parsons
7.00 The Archers Eddie has a nose for trouble
7.15 Front Row With Mark Lawson
7.45 Inner Voices Written and performed by Rikkie Beadle Blair. (r)
8.00 Hope in Oklahoma John Hope Franklin revisits his birthplace, the all-black town of Rentiesville
8.30 In Business Peter Day on the oil industry
9.00 Nature Starlings
9.30 Start the Week (r) 10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Sound of Trumpets Rik Mayall reads the first part of John Mortimer's novel about a new Labour candidate contesting a by-election
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal Melvyn Bragg appeals on behalf of the National Library for the Blind (r)
11.02 Late Night on 4: Espedair Street By Iain Banks. Weird feels guilty about his wealth. With Paul Gambaccini and John Gordon-Sinclair (3/4) (r)
11.30 (FM) At the Foot of the Mountain Musical recollections from a top performer or composer (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament 12.00am News
12.30 The Late Book: Round Ireland with a Fridge (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Absurd plot but ideas developed nicely

I was certainly not the only critic with serious reservations about Stephen Poliakoff's **Shooting The Past** (BBC2), which slalomed its way to some sort of resolution last night. But I confess I was a little startled by the degree of admiration this enigmatic three-parter elicited from many who saw it, including friends whose judgments I usually trust.

I began to feel a little churlish, especially since, on reflection, I could think of few, if any, dramatists since Dennis Potter who attempt to use television in such an original and provocative way. Poliakoff still thinks television can be a grown-up artform, tackling radical questions about art, culture, life, the Universe and everything. He is an heir to the tradition of Huw Wheldon, and I suppose we should be grateful for that alone.

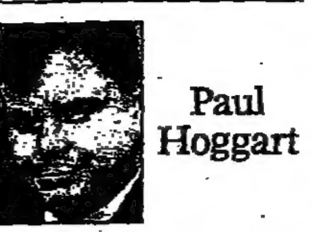
And it was partly because Poliakoff carries this torch that I found the first episode so exasperating. The play kept assaulting my credulity, throwing up fences too high to jump. Why were the new American owners of the picture library only corresponding about their plans to sell the collection, close down the business and redesign the interior of the historic building it was housed in, with one member of the staff there, who wasn't even in overall control?

Why had Oswald Bates hidden this correspondence from his colleagues? How did this outfit get permission to rip out the ornate interior of what was obviously a listed building? (If it wasn't meant to be that special, why film it at Ham House?) Did no architects or designers visit the place to plan this refit or were they just going to make it up as they went along? Why didn't Marilyn Truman hit the phone as soon as the Americans arrived?

I won't bother you with more of these questions, but there were dozens of them, and none got proper answers. I spent the whole first episode balking at things, and balking seriously interferes with suspension of disbelief.

Oh well, it is art, I suppose, not to be taken too literally, and this was, philosophically, an ambitious piece. Poliakoff was articulating several thematic strands, each one admirable in its way. There was the inherent wonder of the photographic archive seen as an almost magical repository of truths about human experience, an inexhaustible mine of unexpected connections and revelations. Last night the collection revealed to the American businessman Christopher Anderson (Liam Cunningham) that his grandmother was a promiscuous, drug-abusing probable murderer, for instance. Balk. Excuse me. It's a *metaphor*. We all have something dark in our past, apparently.





Paul Hoggart

There is the cultural vandalism of accountancy-driven planning, which knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. Hardly original, and I wish he had not embodied this process in crassly caricatured Americans. The home-grown version sweeping our public services is much more insidious and rather more relevant to this situation. But Poliakoff knows that. It was the Birtian Beeb that flogged the Hulton collection; hard-headed Americans bought it. Still, the general point is worth repeating.

Then came the psychological effects of redundancy, forced redeployment, downsizing, constructive dismissal. Above all, the question of the failure of homogenised "human resources" management even to recognise idiosyncratic talent or wayward genius, let alone value it. All this was grippingly captured in Timothy Spall's Oswald, whose lightning lateral mind and literally photographic memory could pick out the same face reappearing in snaps separated by decades and thousands of miles. Balk. Oops, sorry.

Poliakoff's other genius lies in the texture of the drama, full of unusual nuances, each scene constantly twisting away from its apparent course. This can be annoyingly self-conscious. The characters second-guess each other, playing games with the audience's expectations. But intense emotion creeps up unexpectedly, about things we don't normally find particularly moving.

He elicits riveting performances (Lindsay Duncan was spellbinding). The slow, atmospheric direction is hypnotic. When he does not drift into absurdity, nothing touches the quality of his writing. If only I could stop that balking.

It is an unbreakable rule of costume drama that the stately homes of the aristocracy are bathed in brilliant, gleaming light, despite being lit only by candles; whereas big cities are shrouded in perpetual darkness. In the first of three **The Scarlet Pimpernel** (BBC1) films, last night, Revolutionary Paris appeared to be going through some kind of nuclear winter.

At least there is no need to worry about balking. This is pure corn-fed escapist nonsense. The pre-publicity tells us that "that damned elusive Pimpernel" is an 18th-century James Bond, a point echoed in the incidental music. He even had the miniature secret agent's gadget kit concealed about his person. There's a dash of Biggles, and since the saviour of the French aristocracy acts the effete but witty fop, a dollop of Oscar Wilde. Richard E. Grant obviously loves every minute. And with one bound our hero was free of anything resembling artistic pretensions.

But then life is easier if you don't think too much about certain matters. Such as whether your hamster feels shame, or the goldfish is clinically depressed. *Do Animals have Emotions?*, the second in the **Animal Minds** series (BBC2), explained that baboons get stress-related ulcers, macaws get jealous and chickens don't like standing on wire mesh. I swear I saw the cat balking at the television.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (32922)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (78651)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (6310729)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (5783699)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7642293)
11.00 Real Rooms (7652670)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (7639729)
11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1855125)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (49090)
12.30 Wipeout (3104670)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (55996922)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (T) (88038)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (86343729)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (65023545)
2.05 Ironside (r) (7316019)
2.55 Body Spies New series. Daily programme following the efforts of keep-fit martyrs to stick to new year resolutions. (5039470)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (1574354) **3.45** The Littlest Pet Shop (9718477) **3.55** Bodger and Badger (9220767) **4.00** Pocket Dragon Adventures (8672477) **4.15** Rugrats (1119800) **4.35** Misery Guts (1368361) **5.00** Newsround (5105090) **5.10** Blue Peter (6245545)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (585293)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (941)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (293)
7.00 This Is Your Life (T) (7800)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck Report on drugs available via the Internet without a prescription (T) (477)
8.00 EastEnders Grant fights to clear his name (T) (6748)
8.30 CHOICE **Dad** Alan seems to be the only member of the family missing out on a healthy sex life. Comedy, starring George Cole and Kevin McNally (T) (8583)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (7699)
9.30 Paddington Green Aspiring restaurateur Sameer Vaswani begins to wish he hadn't forsaken a law career as opening day approaches and the builders fall behind schedule (T) (98800)
... Panorama Investigation into the alarming rise in cases of food poisoning (T) (403545)



Joey Beauchamp of Oxford United is confident of success (10.40pm)

10.40 Match of the Day Highlights of Oxford United v Chelsea in the FA Cup (T) (285361)
11.25 By the Sword (1991) Premiere. An ex-fencing champion (F. Murray Abraham) starts work as caretaker at a sword-fighting academy run by the son of a man he killed in a duel. Directed by Jeremy Paul Kagan (T) (754651)
12.50am Weather (9284341)
12.55 BBC News 24 (84823713)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Family Ness (9544467) **7.05** Teletubbies (2678584) **7.30** Secret Squirrel and Co (3557496) **7.55** Blue Peter (2971038) **8.20** Taz-Mania (9501816) **8.40** Polka Dot Shorts (8880699) **8.50** Romuald the Reindeer (8879583) **9.00** Daytime On Two: Space Ark (7706854) **9.10** Short Circuit (6122019) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (8988651) **9.45** Storytime (8983106) **10.00** Children's BBC: Teletubbies (32361) **10.30** Daytime On Two: Words and Pictures (5542090) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (5547545) **11.00** Look and Read (1104854) **11.20** Zig Zag (6121835) **11.40** Landmarks (5336632) **12.05pm** History File (4155632) **12.30** Working Lunch (89106)
1.00 Children's BBC: Romuald the Reindeer (73314274)
1.10 The Great Picture Chase Buying works of art (r) (82210038)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show Making a slatted sofa (65044038)
2.10 Sporting Greats With Alan Ball (22850212)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (8693477)
2.45 Match of Their Day With Geoff Hurst (2/15) (T) (9821926)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (2639038)
3.30 The Face on the Milk Carton (TVM 1995) FILM Moving drama about an adopted student who sets out to find her biological parents. With Kellie Martin. Directed by Waris Hussein (T) (20748)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open The start of the second week (4011)
6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (546670)
6.20 The Simpsons (r) (T) (524458)
6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (T) (675816)
7.00 Britannia Tom McKendrick tells the story of the Royal Yacht (r) (1670)
7.30 CHOICE **Against the Grain** Controversial farmer Oliver Walston concludes his hard-headed analysis of British agriculture with a look at the future of the industry (T) (449)
8.00 CHOICE **Raising the Roof** Paul Kenyon discovers that rising damp may be little more than a myth (2/6) (T) (7090)



Antony Worrall Thompson creates more exciting recipes (8.30pm)

8.30 Food and Drink Rick Stein creates a seafood recipe and Antony Worrall Thompson warms up with venison chilli (T) (6125)
9.00 Red Dwarf (r) (T) (8941)
9.30 League of Gentlemen (T) (92670)
10.00 The Fast Show Comedy sketch show (7/8) (r) (T) (48361)
10.30 Newsnight With Jeremy Paxman (T) (294019)
11.15 A Place of Safety (352767)
11.55 Weather (534699)
12.00am Despatch Box Political news (35133)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone

5.30am ITN Morning News (78212)
6.00 GMTV (6435854)
9.25 Trisha (T) (3209125)
10.30 This Morning (T) (24876835)
12.15pm HTV News and Weather (T) (9093903)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (T) (76832)
1.00 Shortland Street (73106)
1.30 Home and Away (T) (75903)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (2540309)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (963651)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2620380)
3.20 HTV News (T) (2627293)
3.25 CITV: Mopatop's Shop (2817816) **3.35** Kipper (8168038) **3.45** The Adventures of Captain Pugwash (8146274) **4.00** Oggy and the Cockroaches (4338011) **4.20** It's a Mystery (2338831) **4.45** Sabrina the Teenage Witch (1382941)
5.10 WEST: Painting Wild Wales (T) (6901962)
5.10 WALES: Moneyspinners (T) (6901962)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (116212)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (458941)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (797477)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (T) (302309)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (361)
6.56 HTV Crimestoppers (568729)
7.00 Wish You Were Here? The quieter side of Majorca, a cruise around the French and Italian Rivieras and clubbing in Rimini (T) (5496)
7.30 Coronation Street The Websters' feud intensifies (T) (545)



True-life hospital drama with the *Trauma Team* (8pm)

8.00 Trauma Team Staff nurse Peter McGrane arrives in A&E as a patient, while the animal handler whose arm was bitten off by a tiger revels in all the media attention (2/6) (T) (1816)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes The DIY teams visit Halifax (4/10) (T) (3651)
9.00 The Vice Part two. Cheryl hits a brick wall in her search for rent boy Brendan, believing his parents are hiding vital information about his past (4/6) (T) (6421)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (42187)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (502670)
10.40 Nash Bridges (T) (302477)
11.40 Midnight Caller (342800)
12.40am Football Extra Football League highlights (8638862)
1.40 World Football International soccer (r) (6782794)
2.10 Son of Dracula (1943) FILM Atmospheric chiller in which the count visits America's Deep South in search of fresh blood. Lon Chaney Jr stars. Directed by Robert Siodmak (9723133)
3.40 Trisha *Shown earlier* (r) (T) (3073355)
4.40 ITV Nightscreen (34198591)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (22268)

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News (6619651)
1.00 High Road (73106)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (9648106)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (964380)
3.20-3.25 Central News (2627293)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (6901962)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (302309)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (502670)
11.40-12.40 Renegade (342800)
3.30am Trisha (74189)
4.30 Central Jobfinder '99 (8430249)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4880317)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (9093903) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (6627670) **1.00 High Road** (T) (73106) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (9648106) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (964380) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (2627293) **5.08 Birthday People** (8151800) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6901962) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (84651) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News;** Weather (T) (502670) **11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts** (342800)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News;** Weather (9093903) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6901962) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (309) **6.30-7.00 Country Ways** (T) (361) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News;** Weather (T) (502670) **11.40-12.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (342800) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (22268)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (6605458) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (6619651) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (6901962) **5.58 Anglia Weather** (T) (187941) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (122090) **6.55-7.00 Take It On** (568729) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (614106) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (502670) **11.40-12.40 Renegade** (342800)

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (45590800) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47633854) **9.00 Ysgolion:** The English Programme (98969651) **9.25 Schools at Work** (72178477) **9.30 Geography Junction** (89261854) **9.45 Book Box** (89266309) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (35409019) **10.15 Victorian Scots** (35415570) **10.30 Place and People** (17997293) **10.50 Stop, Look, Listen** (93870361) **11.00 Deuparth Gwaith** (18773564) **11.15 The Mix** (18763187) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (r) (T) (24599309) **12.00pm Right to Reply** (T) (16214564) **12.30 Sesame Street** (38218038) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (47636941) **1.30 Classic Aircraft** (T) (38215309) **2.00 Time Team** (T) (35348670) **3.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan** (3/6) (r) (T) (68236039) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (T) (56996545) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (56908380) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (T) (56904564) **5.00 Planed Plant** (63286534) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (56995816) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (69874105) **6.10 Heno** (T) (95576903) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (87686390) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (56905293) **8.00 Dudley** (T) (67886598) **8.30 Pwy Di Pwy?** (T) (82636895) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** (T) (24578816) **9.30 Sgorio** (T) (19467835) **10.35 FILM: Money for Nothing** (T) (28126816) **12.25am FILM: The Handmaid's Tale** (T) (46160688) **2.30 Diwedd**
4.00 Ysgolion:

5.55am Sesame Street (4425212)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (61361)
9.00 Schools:
9.00 The English Programme (6112477) **9.25** Schools at Work (7944019) **9.30** Geography Junction (8980019) **9.45** Book Box (8978274) **10.00** Stage Two Science (9190212) **10.15** Victorian Scots (9180835) **10.30** Place and People (3852870) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (2364903) **11.00** Rat-A-Tat-Tat (6112187) **11.15** The Mix (6135038)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (T) (1274)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (69800)
12.30 Bewitched (T) (74274)
1.00 Pet Rescue (r) (T) (71748)
1.30 Roots to Success (T) (86350019)
1.45 Collectors' Lot (T) (79739309)
1.55 Quiet Weekend (1946) FILM British comedy starring George Thorpe and Marjorie Fielding. Directed by Harold French (T) (61265380)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (T) (767)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (274)
4.30 Countdown (T) (1289800)
4.55 Montel Williams (T) (4470458)
5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (598)
6.00 Dishes (T) (651)
6.30 Hollyoaks Kate confronts her mother (T) (903)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (941403)
7.50 Music of the Millennium (T) (609293)



It may look like an alien, but will it prove to be real? (8pm)

8.00 The Roswell Incident Examination of the facts surrounding one of the postwar era's most persistent enigmas — the alleged UFO crash outside Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. (r) (T) (5729)
9.00 CHOICE **Mayday** Investigation into design faults in shipping, which have led to notorious tragedies such as the *Dona Paz* disaster and the loss of roll-on roll-off ferry the *Herald of Free Enterprise* in 1987. (4/4) (T) (8293)
10.00 Money for Nothing (TVM 1993) FILM An unemployed docker stumbles across a stash of untraceable money and decides to keep it. Starring John Cusack. Directed by Ramon Menendez (T) (756870)
11.55 Shooting Gallery Short films (529767)
11.56 A'la Cart (980729)
12.10am Insomnia (5268355)
12.30 The Loved (9877965)
12.45 Love Story (1423201)
12.55 The End (T) (5525864)
1.15 Dispatches (r) (T) (94404)
1.45 Powerhouse Omnibus Highlights (2202620)
2.10 Right to Reply Viewers' comments (r) (T) (5517881)
2.40 Susannah of the Mounties (1939) FILM Romantic adventure, starring Shirley Temple. Directed by William A. Seiter (3173152)
4.00 TOP! 1 — Top! En Español (997404) **5.40** Place and People (3317794)

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (7548309)
7.00 WideWorld Part two. Maggie Philbin explores science in everyday life (r) (T) (9636212)
7.30 Milkshake! (5201895)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (9367125)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (1707816)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (1706187)
9.00 Was It Good for You? (r) (1720767)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6159361)
10.20 Sunset Beach Olivia nearly spills the beans (T) (2764309)
11.10 Leeza (2644835)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (1700903)
12.30 Family Affairs (r) (T); 5 News Update (9576632)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (9635583)
1.30 The Roseanne Show With Country star Loretta Lynn and actress Caroline Rhea (r); 5 News Update (9575903)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (6996903)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap Liverpool Mums, Eric Knowles with Selling the Family Silver and word game Cryptogram; 5 News Update (4195767)
3.30 Harvey (TVM 1997) FILM Harry Anderson stars as a middle-aged bachelor with an imaginary white rabbit as his friend. Swoozie Kurtz plays the ambitious sister trying to have him certified. Directed by George Schaefer (T) (9279458)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (6728187)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (5857212)
6.30 Family Affairs Holly gets cold feet (T) (5848564)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (6907019)
7.30 Wild Flight Attempts to save the Australian cockatoo from extinction (T); 5 News Update (5844748)
8.00 Weather Front Katie Ledger, Paul Simons and Chris Thomcroft examine issues surrounding global weather systems (7/8) (6916767)
8.30 Road Rages Jokes about lady drivers are laid to rest with evidence that men are responsible for 94 per cent of motoring offences, though junctions still pose hazards for women (4/6) (T); 5 News Update (6995274)
9.00 The Face (TVM 1996) FILM Yasmine Bleeth stars as a withdrawn, disfigured woman who vows to exact revenge on the former lover who framed her for a crime he committed. Directed by Jack Bender (T); 5 News Update (12874800)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update Pop hits (4608903)
10.55 Broken Badges (TVM 1990) FILM An unconventional detective assembles a posse of mentally unbalanced cops to track down a wealthy couple's killer. Drama, starring Miguel Ferrer. Directed by Kim Manners (T) (46409318)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Snowboarding at the Winter X Olympics (79720959)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H The Wentworth prisoners organise a petition, and Bobbie finds herself in danger (3590084)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (4546309)

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● **For further listings see Saturday's *Vision***

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (41659) 7.30 The Simpsons (17584) 8.00 The Simpsons (88903) 8.30 Hollywood Squares (87274) 9.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (97361) 10.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (13748) 11.00 Guilty! (28212) 12.00pm Jenny Jones (35309) 1.00 Mad About You (24800) 1.30 Jeopardy (15545) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (91038) 3.00 Jenny Jones (24729) 4.00 Guilty! (38564) 5.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (8361) 6.00 Married — With Children (2293) 6.30 Friends (3545) 7.00 The Simpsons (9090) 7.30 The Simpsons (7729) 8.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (54458) 9.00 First Wave (67922) 10.00 South Park (99019) 10.30 Seinfeld (18057) 11.00 Friends (37293) 11.30 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (98800) 12.30am Highlander: The Series (87220) 1.30 Long Play (5533084)

SKY BOX OFFICE

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SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 28)
Trial and Error (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60)
The Wings of the Dove (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59)
The Borrowers (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58)
One Night Stand (1997)

FILMFOUR

...pm P'Tang Yang Kipperbang (1982) (82903) 8.00 A Room With a View (1985) (7994748) 10.00 Portraits Chinois (1996) (9313361) 12.00am Party Girl (1995) (6143125) 1.35 To Die For (1995) (97046) 3.30 Raining Stones (1993) (30572) 4.50 Detour (1945) (4400713) ... Close

SKY PREMIER

...am What Love Sees (1996) (53125) ... Steel Magnolias (1989) (73632) ...10 Magic in the Water (1995) (18632) ...pm What Love Sees (1996) (64545) ... Michael (1996) (55019) 3.30 Barry Norman's Film Night (8019) 4.00 Magic in the Water (1995) (1835) 6.00 Steel Magnolias (1989) (79767) 8.00 Michael (1996) (74212) 10.00 Con Air (1997) (372632) 11.55 Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina (1997) (393645) 1.45am The Passion of Darkly Noon (1995) (692794) 3.30 Edie and Pen (1996) (695317)

SKY MOVIEMAX

7.00am Action Heroes: Harrison Ford (23125) 7.30 Movie Magic: Down and Out (8233903) 8.15 Action Heroes: Andy Garcia (2490458) 9.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996) (95854) 11.00 A Long Way Home (1981) (55458) 1.00pm Action Heroes: Harrison Ford (22496) 1.30 Movie Magic: Down and Out (8013651) 2.15 Action Heroes: Andy Garcia (3582903) 3.00 Amoral (1993) (70816) 5.00 A Long Way Home (1981) (97851) 7.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996) (41831) 9.00 The Ticket (1997) (75941) 11.00 Robocop II (1990) (178038) 12.55am Nemesis (1992) (801510) 2.30 Hawk's Vengeance (1996) (275133) 4.10 Friday the 13th Part VI (1986) (5808249)

SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Father Brown (1954) (8629816) 6.00 The Dark Mirror (1946) (7007729) 8.00 Howards End (1992) (1142477) 10.30 Brubaker (1980) (28193477) 12.40am M*A*S*H (1970) (1811387) 2.35 The Europeans (1979) (9797171) 4.10 Son of Frankenstein (1939) (5095442)

TNT

9.00pm The Last Challenge (1967) (40758038) 11.00 White Heat (1949) (77152125) 1.15am Travels with My Aunt (1972) (13362897) 3.15 The Last Challenge (1967) (79974423)

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Football 8.30 Racing 9.00 Aerobics Oz Style 9.30 World Sport Special 10.00 Scottish Football 12.00pm Aerobics Oz Style 12.30 What a Weekend 1.00 Football Special 2.30 Spanish Football 4.00 Moto-Plus 4.30 V-Max 5.00 Outdoor Quest 6.00 Sports Centre 6.30 What a Weekend 7.00 Table Tennis 8.00 Outdoor Quest 9.00 Wrestling 12.15am Sports Centre 12.30 You're On Sky Sports! 1.00 Football League Review 2.00 Wrestling 3.15 Sports Centre

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Racing News 8.00 European PGA Golf: South African Open 10.00 Basketball 12.00pm Outdoor Quest 1.00 US Golf: Bob Hope Classic 4.00 Triathlon 5.00 Football League Review 6.00 World Windsurfing 6.30 V-Max 7.00 Live FA Cup Football 10.15 Sports Centre 10.30 You're On! 11.00 Table Tennis 12.00am Outdoor Quest 1.00 Polo 2.00 FA Cup Special 3.30 Live Cricket

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Motor Racing 2.30 Watersports World 3.30 Table Tennis 4.30 Polo 5.30 Total Sport 6.00 Fish TV 7.00 World Motor Sport 10.00 Wonderful World of Golf 11.00 A to Z of Motor Sport

EUROSPORT

7.30am Car On Ice 8.00 Live Tennis 6.30pm Live Figure Skating 8.30 Tennis 10.00 Football: Eurogoals 11.30 Boxing 12.30am Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55 EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30 The House of Eliott 10.30 Rhoda 11.00 Dallas 11.55 Neighbours 12.25pm EastEnders 1.00 Juliet Bravo 2.00 Dallas 2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.55 EastEnders 4.30 Rhoda 5.00 All Creatures Great and Small 6.00 Dynasty 7.00 2point4 Children 7.40 It Ain't Half Hot, Mum 8.20 Yes, Minister 9.00 Tears Before Bedtime 10.05 Hamish Macbeth 11.10 Sports Anorak of the Year 11.45 The Bill 12.15am The Bill 12.45 Backup 1.40 French and Saunders 2.10 Colin's Sandwich 3.00 Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls 7.00 On the Buses 7.30 Doctor in the House 8.00 That's My Boy 8.30 Up the Garden Path 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 Emmerdale Farm 10.00 thirtysomething 11.00 Hawaii Five-O 12.00pm Classic Coronation Street 12.30 Emmerdale Farm 1.00 Nearest and Dearest 1.30 Agony 2.00 thirtysomething 3.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The Saint 5.00 Hawaii Five-O 6.00 Emmerdale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 Mission: Impossible 8.00 The Love Boat 9.00 Classic Coronation Street 9.30 The Comedians 10.00 Jokers Wild 10.30 Hogan's Heroes 11.00 Granada Men and Motors

CARLTON SELECT

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridlock 6.00 London Bridge 6.30 Home to Roost 7.00 Boon 8.00 Birds of a Feather 8.30 The 10 Percenters 9.00 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries 10.00 Big Sky 11.00 Hill Street Blues 12.00am Home to Roost 12.30 Gridlock 1.00 Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear 6.25 Classic Toons 6.35 Gummi Bears 7.00 Classic Toons 7.10 Aladdin 7.35 101 Dalmatians 8.00 Goof Troop 8.25 Classic Toons 8.45 Winnie the Pooh 9.00 Spot 9.05 Animal Shelf 9.15 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Bear 9.55 The Toothbrush Family 10.00 Bite Size 10.10 Tots TV 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Otter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00pm Spot 12.05 Animal Shelf 12.15 Pocket Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 Bite Size 1.15 Tots TV 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otter 2.00 Quack Pack 2.30 New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh 3.00 The Little Mermaid 3.30 Art Attack 4.00 101 Dalmatians 4.30 Hercules: The TV Show 5.00 Recess 5.15 Pepper Ann 5.30 Smart Guy 6.00 Teen Angel 6.30 Boy Meets World 7.00 Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show 7.50 Classic Toons 8.00 FILM: Return from Witch Mountain (1978) 9.30 Home Improvement 10.00 Dinosaurs 10.30 The Wonder Years 11.00 Touched By An Angel

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Turbo 6.30 Power Rangers Turbo 7.00 Mortal Kombat 7.25 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 8.00 Goosebumps 8.25 Sam and Max 8.35 Spiderman 9.00 X-Men 9.25 Fantastic Four 9.50 The Incredible Hulk 10.15 Casper 10.30 Oggy and the Cockroaches 11.00 The Mouse and the Monster 11.05 EekIStravaganza 11.30 Life with Louie 11.55 Home to Rent 12.05pm Sam and Max 12.30 Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Ventura 1.50 Spiderman 2.15 X-Men 2.40 Fantastic Four 3.05 The Incredible Hulk 3.30 Roy and Lisa's Big Ride 3.35 Mortal Kombat 4.00 Spiderman 4.25 Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book 4.50 Home to Rent 5.00 Goosebumps 5.25 Earle Indiana: The Other Dimension 5.50 Oggy and the Cockroaches 5.55 Donkey Kong Country 6.25 Sam and Max 6.50 EekIStravaganza

Another episode in the bizarre life of the young friends from South Park (Sky One 10pm)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Muppet Babies 6.30 Rocko's Modern Life 7.00 CatDog 7.30 Rugrats 8.00 The Wild Thornberrys 8.30 Arthur 9.00 Children's BBC 10.00 Wimzie's House 10.30 Babar 11.00 The Magic School Bus 11.30 Cartoons 12.00pm Rugrats 12.30 Blue's Clues 1.00 Bananas in Pyjamas 1.30 Little Bear Stories 2.00 Cartoons 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.30 Pippi Longstocking 4.00 Hey Arnold! 4.30 Rugrats 5.00 Sister Sister 5.30 Kenan and Kel 6.00 Sabrina the Teenage Witch 6.30 Driven Crazy 7.00 Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High 7.30 City Guys 8.00 Saved by the Bell 8.30 Hang Time 9.00 Tempestt 10.00 Hollyoaks 10.30 Echo Point 11.00 Sweet Valley High 11.30 California Dreams 12.00pm The Fresh Prince 12.30 In the House 1.00 Tempestt 2.00 Hollyoaks 2.30 Echo Point 3.00 Ready or Not 3.30 City Guys 4.00 The Fresh Prince 4.30 In the House 5.00 Saved by the Bell 5.30 Sweet Valley High 6.00 Hang Time 6.30 Movies, Games and Videos 7.00 USA High 7.30 Ready or Not

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team 9.00 L.A.P.D. 9.30 Cops 10.00 Extreme Championship Wrestling 10.30 Erotic Series 11.00 FILM: Bloody Birthday (1980) 1.00am Sex Bytes 1.30 Scary Sex 2.00 Extreme Championship Wrestling 2.30 Cops 3.00 FILM: Come Play with Me (1977) 5.00 L.A.P.D. 5.30 Bushido 6.00 Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Roseanne 8.30 News Radio 9.00 Cybill 9.30 Vic Reeves Big Night Out 10.00 Frasier 10.30 Cheers 11.00 Seinfeld 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show 12.00am Late Night with David Letterman 1.00 Taxi 1.30 The Critic 2.00 Dr Katz 2.30 Soap 3.00 Wings 3.30 Nightstand 4.00 Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Battlestar Galactica 10.00 Quantum Leap 11.00 Dark Shadows 11.30 New Alfred Hitchcock 12.00pm The Twilight Zone 1.00 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles 3.00 Battlestar Galactica 4.00 The Incredible Hulk 5.00 Sightings 6.00 Time Trax 7.00 Quantum Leap 8.00 Sightings 9.00 PSI Factor 10.00 FILM: The Running Man (1987) 11.55 Sci-Focus 12.00am PSI Factor 1.00 FILM: House (1986) 2.45 Sci-Focus 3.00 The Twilight Zone 3.30 Dark Shadows

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet 6.30 Graham Kerr 7.00 Craftwise 7.30 The Painted House 8.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 9.00 Simply Painting 9.30 The Great Garden Game 10.00 Bloom 10.30 Cookabout with Greg and Max 11.00 Two's Country — Get Stuck In 11.30 Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures 12.00pm Australia's Strangest Home Improvements 12.30 Doing It Up 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yankee Workshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Vila 3.00 The Old House with Steve and Norm 3.30 Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Fishing Adventures 4.30 Walker's World 5.00 Flightline 5.30 History's Turning Points 6.00 Animal Doctor 6.30 In the Footsteps of a Bear 7.30 Beyond 2000 8.00 The Terror Technicians 8.30 Ancient Sharks 9.00 Storm Force 10.00 Forbidden Places: Death 11.00 Wings: Eagle Over Lebanon 12.00am Deep Sea Deep Secrets 1.00 History's Turning Points 1.30 Flightline 2.00 Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Animal X 12.30 Ocean Wilds 1.00 Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer 1.30 Australia Wild 2.00 It's a Vet's Life 2.30 Human/Nature 3.30 Harry's Practice 4.00 Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures 4.30 Animal Doctor 5.00 Pet Rescue 5.30 Australia Wild 6.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 6.30 Lassie 7.00 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Going Wild with Jeff Corwin 9.00 Wild at Heart 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Saving the Tiger 11.00 Breed All About It 11.30 Emergency Vets

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Cape Followers 7.30 Heart of the Congo 8.00 Mysterious Elephants of the Congo 9.00 India in Focus: Spell of the Tiger 9.30 India in Focus: Elephant Island 10.00 Whales! 11.00 Lost Worlds 12.00am On the Edge

HISTORY

4.00pm Battle of the Clans 6.00 Bagpipes 7.00 Bonnie Prince Charlie

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Food for Thought 10.00 The Restaurant Show 10.30 Worrall Thompson Cooks 11.00 What's Cooking? 11.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 12.00pm Food Network Daily 12.30 Winter Nosh 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30 Rustie's Real Cooks 2.00 Lunch with Ed Baines 2.30 Food Network Daily 3.00 Jenny Bristow Cooking in the Kitchen 3.30 Coxon's Kitchen College 4.00 Vin Ordinaire 4.30 An Umbrian Kitchen 5.00 Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew 6.20 Philbert the Frog 6.30 Johnson and Friends 6.45 Tiny Tales 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Professor Bubble 7.30 Caillou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Practical Parenting 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 9.00 Diet Show 9.30 The Roseanne Show 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Povich 11.40 Brookside 12.10pm Animal Rescue 12.40 Rescue 911 1.10 Special Babies 1.40 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction 2.10 LA Law 3.10 Living Room 4.00 Michael Cole 4.50 Rolanda 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook 6.15 The Jerry Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Animal Rescue 8.00 Murder Call 9.00 FILM: The Absolute Truth (1996) 11.00 Sex Life Down Under 12.00am Close

ZEE TV

5.00am Amar Kathayen 5.30 Music Time 6.00 Your Zindagi 6.30 Geet Gata Chal 7.00 Faith 7.30 Daily News 8.00 Ru-Ba-Ru 8.30 Saltanat 9.00 Jaan 9.30 Mujhe Chaand Chahiye 10.00 Pal-Do-Pal 11.00 Jhat Pat Khana 11.30 Parampara 12.00pm FILM: Anand Ashram 3.00 Zee Bangla 3.30 Ikke Pe Ikka 4.00 Campus 4.30 Quiz Contest 5.00 Daastan 5.30 Chahat Aur Nafrat 6.00 Music Mag 6.30 Teacher 7.00 Ghar Jamai 7.30 Filmi Baatein 8.00 News Bulletin 8.30 Gumrah 9.00 KTC Sa Re Ga Ma 10.00 Hadd Kar Di 10.30 X Zone 11.30 Yaadon Ka Rang 12.00am News Bulletin 12.30 Aap Ki Adalat 1.00 Zee Bangla 1.30 Rishtey 2.00 FILM: Bengali Movie: Prithibir Sesh Station 4.30 Ebar Jombe Mov

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Roger Bootle on lessons from Argentina

BUSINESS

CASHCOW 46
Art galleries make money out of Monet



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft — MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

Plans to overhaul electricity pool in jeopardy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to overhaul the electricity marketplace — a pivotal part of the Energy White Paper — are in trouble and unlikely to meet next year's deadline.

Without a reform of the controversial electricity "pool", the Government will be forced to maintain its de facto ban on new gas-fired power stations. This will incense generators who are already frustrated at the stranglehold on expansion plans.

Last October Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, ordered the pool to be scrapped and new gas stations to be effectively banned to make the energy market fairer for coal. His Energy White Paper followed a year of crisis for RJB Mining, the biggest producer, after the expiry of government contracts.

Tomorrow John Battle, Energy Minister, will be told by power companies and advisers on pool reform that the deadline of April next year is impossible. He will also be told that legislation will be necessary because all the parties involved in the pool are unlikely to endorse reform.

The Government has no legislative slot for pool reform. It may hope to insert it into a Bill on utility regulation, although there is no time booked for that Bill.

On top of the impasse hit by the reform programme, there are growing fears about a legal minefield when power companies are forced to unravel long-term contracts linked to pool prices.

These widely used "contracts for differences" are tied to prevailing pool prices. When there is no such thing, lawyers have said that dismantling the contracts will be highly problematic.

The Government will replace the pool, in which generators bid in prices and are paid partly according to the power stations they can run, with bilateral contracts.

This could raise the risk of supply failures because the process will not be centralised. The pool was created, primarily, to ensure that the lights stay on.

Tomorrow's meeting between Mr Battle, the industry, pool advisers and consumers' groups is the first cross-interest one he has called — more than three months after the White Paper. Some key groups have not met at all yet.

Blank wants Mirror to fire Montgomery

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SIR VICTOR BLANK, chairman of Mirror Group, is to put a formal motion for the removal of his chief executive, David Montgomery, at a board meeting tomorrow.

Sir Victor will claim that that Mr Montgomery, who has run the newspaper group for more than six years, has lost the confidence of the non-executive directors. However, it is not clear if all the non-executives, who include Sonia Land, Lord Borrie and Alan Clements share this view.

Indeed, Mr Clements, who is deputy chairman of Mirror, is planning to raise questions about the way that Sir Victor has been conducting the negotiations with the two bidders circling Mirror, Regional Independent Media and Trinity.

Mr Clements raised a number of questions about Sir Victor's behaviour in a meeting with non-executive directors last week. One of the complaints is that Sir Victor did not inform a Mirror board meeting on January 11 that the previous day he had been telephoned by Sir Norman Fowler, chairman of RIM requesting a meeting.

At a meeting on January 15 Sir Norman handed over a written offer proposal. A document produced by Mr Clements also questions whether Sir Victor met Mirror shareholders without advisers present — something that should not happen during an offer period.

Sir Victor will claim that shareholders speaking for at least 35 per cent, including the Mirror's largest shareholder Phillips & Drew, the fund manager, agree with his move. Some shareholders have said that they may call an extraordinary meeting to oust Mr Montgomery if he refuses to resign.

The acrimonious dispute at the heart of the Mirror board is coming to a head while a 200p a share cash offer worth £913 million is on the table from Regional Independent Media, publisher of the *Yorkshire Post*.

Events are being watched closely by Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, which offered an all-share deal worth about 160p a share. It then pulled out of talks.

RIM has made it clear that it is likely to submit a higher offer for Mirror but only after much fuller disclosure of information — something that has yet to happen. City analysts have put a 225p price tag on Mirror. Any removal of Mr Montgomery will be viewed as a negative by RIM, which fears being shut out of the deal.

Maxwell policy could lead to £50m boost

MIRROR GROUP could gain up to £50 million from the settlement of an insurance claim brought by it, the Maxwell pension funds and Maxwell Communication Corporation over the disappearance of more than £500 million in the months before and after Robert Maxwell's death in 1991 (Jason Nissé writes).

The two former Maxwell companies, and their pension funds, are claiming under a fraud policy, but the insurers say that if there was fraud, Robert Maxwell, who signed the policy, would have known it was being perpetrated and that this invalidates the claim.

Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary, is to arbitrate on the case at a meeting due to start next week. If he rules against the insurers, Mirror would benefit in its own right and also because it helped to meet pension fund shortfalls and so has first claim on recoveries.





Michael Hardern, left, king of the carpetbaggers, has a new adversary in Martin Bell, MP and former war correspondent

Bell takes on carpetbaggers

BY SUSAN EMMETT

MICHAEL HARDERN, the freelance butler leading the attempts to turn Britain's building societies into banks, has a new adversary. Martin Bell, the white-suited MP for Tatton, has embarked on a crusade to save mutuals from conversion and called on MPs to declare their building society accounts on the register of members' interests.

The anti-sleaze campaigner targeted carpetbaggers by stating that windfall payments should not be part of the conversion vote process.

Although notorious carpetbaggers such as Mr Hardern would be in the first line of fire, Mr Bell's proposals could also draw attention to MPs who might have a vested interest in the mutuality debate.

However, Mr Bell has yet to reveal whether he holds any building society accounts. Building societies based near his Cheshire constituency include the Cheshire, the Manchester, the Marsden and the Vernon.

Bob Goodall who co-ordinates the Save Our Building Societies campaign, said: "It's obvious that if an MP had something to hide he would not introduce the subject as public debate."

Mr Bell, the former BBC war correspondent, said that building society votes could only be truly democratic if the windfall element was removed.

Mr Bell said that he was "concerned that votes for conversion are backed up with what can only be described as a bribe".

BP to exploit Mobil barrier

BY CARL MORTISHED, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

BP AMOCO looks set to take advantage of a European competition barrier to Exxon's plans to merge with Mobil by striking a deal to gain control of refining businesses worth about £3 billion.

BP has a joint venture with Mobil in Europe and the most likely result of the complex situation is that BP could buy all of Mobil's downstream assets so that the deal with Exxon can go through. The BP Mobil joint venture has already brought savings of about £500 million in their joint operations.

The US Federal Trade Commission has requested a mountain of further information from Exxon which has yet to file its agreement to take over Mobil with the European Commission. However, the European competition regulator said it had already been in contact with Exxon.

The market is worried that the Exxon/Mobil deal will trip up at the starting blocks. Mobil's share price is at an 8 per cent discount to its implied value on the Exxon merger terms.

Rodney Chase, BP's deputy chief executive said that BP was confident about the outcome of negotiations with Exxon/Mobil. "They wish to conclude a merger. We are keen to help them to do so."

According to Wood Mackenzie, the consultants, the £3 billion BP/Mobil European oil products venture has a market share of 10.6 per cent. Adding Exxon's European downstream assets would create a petrol and lubricants behemoth with over 20 per cent of the European market.

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1623

ACROSS
1 Clothes cupboard (8)
5 Lyric poems (4)
8 Non-conformist (5)
9 Interrupt; mess up (7)
11 Child; little drink (3)
12 (Fr. kings') scarlet banner (9)
13 Well-behaved (6)
15 (Genetic) cross (6)
18 Quilled creature (9)
19 Coat of eg 7 *down* (3)
20 Mountaineer (7)
21 Eating implement (5)
22 Long, heroic tale (4)
23 (Sole) in butter, lemon, parsley (8)

DOWN
1 (Eg kitchen) surface (7)
2 Disprove (allegation) (5)
3 Empirical guide (4,2,5)
4 Blunt needle (6)
6 Percussion player (7)
7 (Brown) marten; black (5)
10 Period short of news (5,6)
14 Lying in wait; in the background (7)
16 Send mad (7)
17 Transfix (6)
18 Steps (5)
19 Was very cold; stopped moving (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1622
ACROSS: 1 As bold as brass 8 Thistle 9 Chafe 10 Fog 11 Register 13 Costly 14 Tissue 17 Pince-nez 19 Dam 21 Mafia 22 Seducer 24 Stratospheric
DOWN: 1 Artefact 2 Bridges 3 Let 4 Avenge 5 Buck's fizz 6 Adage 7 Seek 11 Reluctant 12 Mesmeric 15 Sidecar 16 Gnosis 18 Infer 20 Amos 23 Doh

P&S may face auction sale

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

PORTSMOUTH & Sunderland Newspapers yesterday said that it has received a number of bid approaches over the weekend after the launch of a £16 a share offer made on Friday by rival publisher, Johnston Press.

P&S denounced a hostile move by Johnston as "opportunistic" and told their shareholders to ignore the tender offer which closes on Saturday.

The newspaper and convenience store group said that it had received at least two other approaches since Friday when Johnston Press bought a 14.99 per cent stake and launched a tender offer for a further 10 per cent. Johnston is also seeking regulatory approval to take a controlling interest in P&S.

In a letter to be sent to shareholders today, Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, the P&S chairman, argues that Johnston Press is trying to buy P&S "on the cheap".

The Johnston Press move follows rejection of an unsolicited approach to P&S in November. "We believe that the tender offer significantly undervalues P&S's earnings and growth potential which we considered in detail when deciding to reject Johnston's previous approach," Sir Stephen will tell shareholders.

P&S declined to give further details yesterday on the other preliminary "approaches" but they are believed to include both potential financial bidders as well as a newspaper group.

P&S management recognises that the Johnston action has put the company in play and it is prepared to recommend an offer that values the company's potential. The Johnston offer would value P&S at £191 million.

Bumpy ride forecast for retailers

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GLOOM in the high street is likely to persist for several more months but then retailers can expect fortunes to improve, according to a Verdict survey published today.

But in the long term high street shops will face a harder fight for customers against a proliferation of electronic sellers. The retail consultancy predicts tougher conditions and falling profit margins over the next five years. It forecasts a big growth in retailing capacity with the equivalent of 25 new big regional shopping centres being built. This, along with increased use of shopping by home computer, will mean that retailing is a buyer's market.

Verdict forecasts that this year there will be real growth of 2.1 per cent in retail sales — taking the total to £198 billion and on to £208 billion next year.

Electra and 3i in talks

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A HUGE shake-up in Britain's venture capital industry will be signalled today when 3i announces that it is in talks to buy Electra Investment Trust for about £1.25 billion.

The pair started talks ten days ago for 3i to buy Electra. The takeover would shake up the private equity market and propel 3i into a more central role with stakes in large businesses. In the past, it has not had a great deal of success in large transactions. It has been suggested that 3i could bid up to 725p a share for Electra — compared with a price of 563½p on Friday. Electra's net asset value will today be set at less than £7 when the company comments on the talks.

Stoddart: shares at discount

Shares in Electra, which is chaired by Michael Stoddart, the venture capital guru, have been trading at a discount of up to 30 per cent to its net asset value. This is largely because its portfolio is concentrated in large investments.

3i specialises in smaller development capital situations, and its shares have tended to trade at or above net asset value.

A sticking point to the deal may be Electra's contract with Electra Fleming, a joint venture with Robert Fleming, the merchant bank. Electra Fleming manages the trust and may want a continued role in the expanded 3i structure.

Both companies are keen to expand their operations in Europe, with 3i already having built beachheads in France and Germany.